

## THE TIMES 1785-1985 Tomorrow

Soft touch  
Judges face  
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Suzy Menkes  
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## Portfolio

The weekly prize in *The Times* Portfolio competition - £20,000 - was won by Mrs Elaine Eyre, of Solihull, West Midlands. Today's daily prize will be £4,000, the usual amount, because there was no winner on Saturday. Portfolio list, page 22; rules and how to play, Information Service, back page.

## CBI voices doubt on jobs outlook

The Confederation of British Industry forecasts manufacturing growth of 2.5 per cent next year and 2 per cent in 1987, largely because of increased consumer spending. But it says the improvements will not be enough to bring unemployment down significantly. Page 19

## Bank spurned

Oxfam is withdrawing its accounts, worth about £43 million this year, from Barclays Bank because of its involvement with South Africa and is moving to the National Westminster. Mandela hopes, page 5

## Soviet shake-up

The Soviet Union has announced the creation of a super ministry of agriculture and food supply as part of its governmental streamlining effort. Page 5

## Leading ladies

The Institute of Directors' first major conference on women, which starts today, considers why so few reach the top of their professions. Pages 11, 19

## Leoni charge

A man aged 27 is to appear before magistrates at Mildred hall, Suffolk, today charged with the murder of Leoni Keating, aged three, who was found dead after disappearing in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, in September.

## Jab may stop

Routine vaccination of school children against tuberculosis would be replaced by selective inoculation of high-risk groups under a government proposal that has divided medical specialists. Page 3

## Hockey triumph

Great Britain beat India at hockey for the first time in 37 years to win a silver medal at the Champions Trophy tournament in Perth, Australia. Page 23

## SPECIAL REPORT

Despite enormous wealth from oil and gas, Norway fears runaway inflation and unemployment. Pages 15-17

Leader page, 13

Letters: On academic freedom in South Africa, from Dr S. J. Saunders; safety in coal mines, from Mr P. McNestry. Leading articles: After the summit: hospital waiting lists. Features, pages 10-12. Coronation: Street's silver crown: The NHS waiting game. Spectrum: South Africa - how sanctions could matter. Monday Page: the sixth-form executives. Obituaries, page 14. Mr Leslie Mitchell. Classified, pages 27-30. La crème de la crème: educational opportunities.

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# Hijackers killed as commandos storm Malta jet

By Our Foreign Staff

Egyptian commandos were reported last night to have stormed a hijacked Boeing 737 in Malta. At least seven people were feared to have been killed when the jet was hijacked en route to Cairo.

The Maltese authorities had earlier refused to refuel the jet until all the passengers had been freed by the hijackers.

Joel Levy, deputy chief of the US Mission, said "there were a fair number of casualties among the passengers and at first report, it appears all the hijackers were killed."

He said in a telephone conversation with the Associated Press that the commandos "blew two doors off (the plane) and fired seven shots" in their assault on the aircraft which had been commandeered by Arabic-speaking hijackers on Saturday.

Airport workers had reported hearing gunfire and explosions and seeing smoke in the area of the airport where the Egyptian Boeing 737 was parked.

There were conflicting reports earlier on the dead and injured people on the Boeing 737, which had been grounded at Malta's Luqa airport since 10.30pm on Saturday. Eleven women passengers - four Egyptians and seven Filipinos - were set free early on Sunday morning.

A man who identified himself as the pilot was overheard telling the control tower by radio that the hijackers killed seven passengers and were threatening to kill more if the plane was not refueled.

Paul Mifsud, the Government spokesman, confirmed that one person had been killed,

a woman in her 20s, whose nationality was not immediately determined, and seven people wounded.

"She was shot and thrown out of the plane," Mr Mifsud said. "It could be that there are other corpses aboard. We don't know."

The Boeing 737, carrying more than 90 people, was diverted to Malta while on a flight from Athens to Cairo.

Another passenger, who had also been thrown out and left under the plane, was found alive after she was picked up by two airport officials who delivered food to the jet, Mr Mifsud told reporters.

He said the woman, in her 30s, was probably American,

Heathrow alert 8  
Malta's role 8

He said she has a head wound but was conscious and appeared in relatively good shape.

The Greek security police opened an investigation into the hijacking. The police are particularly interested in the case of one Arab passenger who came from Belgrade and whose ticket was for Addis Ababa, but the Cairo destination had been inserted in a manner that would have warranted closer scrutiny.

According to these sources, three Arab passengers are suspected of having hijacked the plane. Police identified them as Ali Amor Marzuki, aged 22, carrying a Tunisian passport; Salem Salah Chakore, aged 25; and Mohammed Bou Said Novaldin, aged 23, both travelling on Moroccan passports. One of them is the Arab

from Belgrade. The other two bought their tickets locally.

Late last night the jet remained in the same position surrounded by Maltese security forces. Journalists followed events by listening in to exchanges between the aircraft and the control tower where the Maltese Prime Minister, together with his Cabinet and members of the diplomatic corps, continued to negotiate for the release of all hostages.

The local television station, Xandir Malta, reported that a military aircraft with Egyptian troops sent to help Maltese security forces landed at Luqa airport yesterday, but the troops were not allowed to approach the hijacked aircraft.

The jet, flight number MS648, had landed late on Saturday evening after being refused permission to do so by the airport's control tower.

All lights at Luqa airport were turned off and it was closed to traffic for an hour, but the Egyptian pilot brought the aircraft down, in the light of a Singapore airliner and taxied to park number six where it was visible from the main arrival and departure lounges. The captain demanded the aircraft be refueled. From the start, the Maltese authorities refused to supply fuel.

Prime Minister Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici arrived on the scene before the landing, and told the hijackers that fuel would only be provided if all the passengers were released. The captain was heard demanding to speak to higher authorities.

Referring to one of the

Continued on back page, col 3

## Athens security in spotlight again

## Greeks stunned by outrage

The Egyptian airliner hijacking comes as an embarrassing shock to the Greeks, who were heavily criticized for lax security after the TWA hijacking in June.

The US Government's virtual embargo of Athens airport for five weeks after that incident cost Greek tourism millions of dollars and was lifted only when security experts from the International Air Transport Association and the US Civil Aviation Administration inspected the security arrangements and were satisfied by Greek promises that additional protective measures would be taken.

The Greek view now is that the latest incident proves that no airport can be made sufficiently secure to deter terrorists.

"Security precautions at Athens airport are draconian 24 hours on 24", a Greek official statement said last night. "The passengers of the hijacked Egyptian airliner were screened four times between checking in and boarding the plane."

There are two main security checks - one by the Greek police on entering the so-called "sterile lounge" through metal detectors, and one on checking in at the waiting room for each particular flight where a body detector is also used. The other checks are made when transit

passengers enter the lounge and before passengers board the bus that takes them to the plane.

For the ordinary traveller these precautions are no tougher and no easier than those of other western European airports. But Athens should have had an advantage in that its security was tightened so recently.

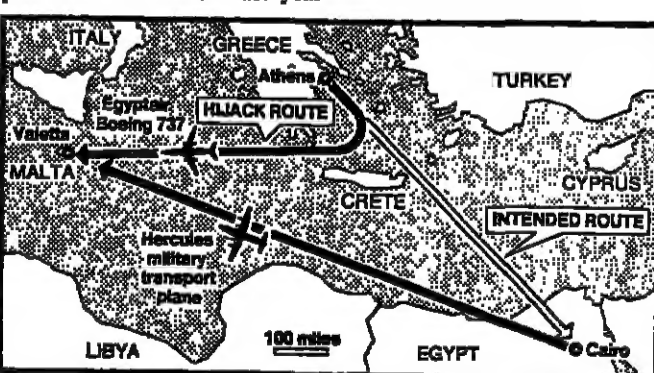
Only two weeks ago, a team from the American Federal Bureau of Investigation checked security. Mr Rodney Wallis, the International Air Transport Association's security chief, visited Athens to ascertain that the promises were being kept.

Foreign security officials have been particularly concerned by three possible lapses at Athens: the airport's outer wire fence which is so easy to penetrate that a man last year

fired a bazooka against a Jordanian airliner taking off; the training of the policemen manning checkpoints; and the screening of airline catering staff.

Concern about the vulnerability of the 11-mile perimeter at Athens airport was largely dispelled by plans to replace the present wire fence with a 6ft high wire mesh enclosure reinforced by eight guard towers. Police patrols in armoured cars have been stepped up until the wall is completed.

The second main concern has been the lack of training of the police officers manning X-ray scanners and metal detectors but special training courses have been held and arrangements have been made for shorter shifts in order to increase concentration.



## Car bomb injures 31 at US shop in Frankfurt

Frankfurt (AP) - A powerful car bomb exploded outside an American military shopping centre here yesterday injuring 31 people, officials said. Most of the injured were Americans.

The blast shattered windows and damaged 42 cars and blew a gaping hole in the shop's back wall.

Mr Bill Swisher, a spokesman for the US Army's 97th General Hospital, said of the 30 injured people treated at the hospital 24 had been released by early evening.

"All but two of (those treated) were Americans," he said. "None of the injuries appear to be life-threatening."

West German officials said

another injured man who worked in the shopping centre, was taken to the nearby St Markus Hospital, but later released.

The Frankfurt police spokesman, Herr Kurt Kraus, said the bomb was packed in a BMW 525 car which was bought by a "Moroccan-looking man" on Saturday from a second-hand car dealer near Frankfurt.

He said the BMW was bought from the same second-hand lot which sold the car that was used in the bombing of a US Air Force base last August. The leftist terrorist group Red Army Faction claimed responsibility for that attack.

## Waite reaches Athens after delay in Beirut

Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy trying to negotiate the release of western hostages held in Lebanon, left Beirut yesterday and flew to Athens on his way to New York.

His departure from the Middle East had been delayed three days because of the Beirut inter-militia battles. "I'll be back soon," he told reporters in Beirut, while tucking a white bullet-proof vest into a flight bag. The body armour was a prudent precaution Mr Waite took for his high-speed drive to the airport.

At Athens, he said: "I'm optimistic, but it takes time." He continues to New York early today.

## Artificial heart man's first year of a sort of life

From Christopher Thomas Washington



Mr Schroeder strokes and loss of memory

Mr William Schroeder will have spent one year today living with an artificial heart. No human or animal has lived longer with a Jarvik 7 permanent artificial heart.

The 10-oz steel and plastic pump implanted in his chest is linked most of the time to a 323-lb portable compressor, but an 11.4-lb portable compressor can give him mobility.

The dreams of getting "good old dad" back to normal faded months ago, and he clings amazingly to life as the ethics

and humanity of it all are debated around him.

Mr Schroeder, a father of six aged 52, crossed the milestones he set himself: he spent another Christmas with the family, and he attended his son's wedding.

But a series of strokes have stolen much of his short-term memory and his speech is little more than grunts. Day and night he can hear the mechanical pump thumping inside him as he lies inert in Humana Hospital, Louisville.

Probably the cherished milestones have been forgotten by his broken mind. "Sometimes I wonder what keeps him going,"

his son, Mel, said. "The only thing I can think of is that somewhere in the back of his mind he is hoping that he will be able to go home some day and just be with his family. That's really the only thing left."

Dr William DeVries has implanted permanent devices in two other patients since he operated on Mr Schroeder. Mr Murray Haydon has suffered bleeding, a transient stroke, breathing difficulties, pneumonia and infections during nine months of his fight for life. Jack Burcham died of internal bleeding in April, after 10 days.

The ethical question stalks the medical profession. It may be that the Jarvik 7 will be used more in Europe because of unease in America.

The Jarvik 7 was a sensation a year ago. In January, Mr Schroeder walked a distance of three blocks. But soon a mysterious lingering fever sapped his energy and spirit. He became a slow moving man in a wheelchair, often staring blankly, saying no when he meant yes.

He will not celebrate his first anniversary today because he is too far away from life to know about it.

## Sogat men defy Mirror strike call

By David Felton Labour Correspondent

Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of Mirror Group Newspapers, last night warned his 6,000 employees that "the gravy train has hit the buffers". The company's senior management threatened to bring out the Mirror in the face of a strike by members of the print union, Sogat 82.

Late-night talks were held between Mr Maxwell and Miss Brenda Dean, Sogat general secretary, at a union office in Brixton, south London, to seek an end to the strike which was called over Mr Maxwell's refusal to withdraw dismissal notices.

Several hundred Sogat members defied the strike call, which was made after a ballot vote of the union's 3,000 members at MGN which gave a small majority for industrial action. Last night Mr Maxwell was attempting to produce a one-edition issue of the newspaper without the majority of Sogat members.

Members of other unions crossed picket lines surrounding The Mirror headquarters in Holborn Circus to cooperate with the printing of the paper, whose leading article on the ills of the national newspaper industry said: "The time has come for Fleet Street to face the realities which the rest of Britain has known for so long. Its wild and wasteful party is truly over."

Dismissal notices were issued to the 6,000 staff as part of the group's survival plan which involves reducing the workforce by 2,000. Notices have been suspended for other groups of workers where unions have opened talks with the company, but Sogat was insisting that the notices had to be withdrawn for talks to start.

Mr Maxwell, who in a letter yesterday to Miss Dean questioned the legality of the strike ballot, asked the unions to reach agreement on the manning reductions by December 7.

In the leading article, Mr Maxwell accused Sogat of thinking "it can buy an everlasting ticket for the gravy train, well it can't and it won't."

The Mirror management was hoping last night that co-operation of the workforce at its Manchester printing centre would result in extra copies being printed to make up for any losses because of the strike in London, which started at midday. It appeared that Sogat members in Manchester were largely ignoring the strike call.

## Unionists to warn Thatcher over deal

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Unionist politicians are to meet the Prime Minister today to express their total opposition and that of a majority of the "loyalist" community to the Anglo-Irish agreement and to demand a referendum in the province on its proposals.

Backed by the support they received from thousands who attended a rally against the deal in Belfast on Saturday and an opinion poll showing 75 per cent of Protestants opposed to the accord, they will warn Mrs Thatcher of the danger of pressing ahead with the accord without the consent of the majority of the community.

But the delegation, consisting of two Northern Ireland assemblymen from each of the Official and Democratic Unionist Parties, arrive at Westminster amid private Unionist criticism at the absence of Mr Enoch Powell from the rally and speculation about his future political intentions.

Unionist leaders wanted the rally to be a public display of unity but the Official Unionist MP for Down South who was not on the platform was unable to join the others in signing a

public declaration pledging to resign their Westminster parliamentary seats on January 1 next year.

Several Unionists in the party fear he is not prepared to resign. Mr Powell, who has a majority of 548, is believed to want another term at Westminster. But according to one leading Official Unionist Mr Powell will be finished in Northern Ireland politics if he fails to toe the party line.

Mr Powell excused himself from the rally on the grounds that it was fixed too late for him to change other engagements. But it is also thought he would not have wished to appear on a platform with the Rev Ian Paisley of whom he has been extremely critical in the past.

Mr Powell's stock among Unionists fell further after the Anglo-Irish agreement since many thought he had the confidence of the Prime Minister and that she would never sign a deal giving Dublin a role in the running of the North.

Mr John Taylor, Official Unionist MP for Strangford, warned the Prime Minister that

Continued on page 2, col 4

## Pope keeps the bishops guessing

From Peter Nichols Rome

The Pope sprang a surprise at the opening of the Vatican's special synod of bishops by deliberately avoiding in his address any specific reference to the subjects to be dealt with during the next two weeks.

The Pope's uncharacteristic discretion needs explanation, especially since one of the subjects - which may turn out to be the most prominent issue of all - is relations between the Vatican and the residential bishops throughout the Catholic world, some of whom feel that authority is still too closely centralized in Rome.

One explanation of the Pope's reticence, offered by some of his closest advisers, is that he wanted the synod members to feel free to say what they wish in debates, and therefore gave no guidance on how he feels the debates should go. He will attend all the plenary sessions of the synod, but intends to remain silent.

Pope's strong hand, page 5



# Failed bomb blast ends escape attempt by armed IRA prisoners

An armed gang of IRA prisoners yesterday failed in an attempt to blast their way out of Ireland's top security Prison. Prison staff were held at gunpoint during the escape attempt which ended when a bomb planted at the main gates failed to explode.

An Irish Justice Department spokesman said last night that no-one escaped and there were no injuries.

The jail houses some of Ireland's most notorious prisoners including Dominic McGlinchey, the former IRA leader who is awaiting trial. Thomas McMahon, jailed for life for the murder of Lord Mountbatten of Burma and Gerard Tuite. The spokesman said that guns, explosives, duplicate keys and

fake prison uniforms were used in the escape attempt. A total of 11 men, all members of the IRA, were involved in the attempt which began when guns were produced in a cell block at noon. A man, not involved in the attempted escape, held prison staff at gunpoint as the prisoners made their way through a number of gates before failing in their bid to blast open the main gates.

It is understood there were two small explosions but the complete device did not go off. The prisoners threatened to shoot a prison officer unless he opened a gate. Some doors were opened by prisoners with duplicate keys.

The men involved wore dark clothing made to look like uniforms with prison service buttons. When they realised the main gates were not going to open they surrendered to prison staff and police on duty in the jail.

The prison was searched and a number of jail facilities were suspended as searches in the main gates were suspended. The prison was sealed off and traffic on the main route from the Irish capital to Cork and Limerick was disrupted.

The spokesman said a full investigation was being made by the prison authorities and the police into how the prisoners had got hold of explosives.

## Paisley star of 'no deal' rally

From Richard Ford, Belfast

On the dome of Belfast's City Hall, the bulky figure of the Rev Ian Paisley surveyed the seething mass of 'loyalists' waiting to hear his stentorian tones in unionist's hour of need.

As he looked down, the man who bestrides the province's politics said: "I never thought I would live to see the day when 1912 was repeated. It is just the same. It is like you see in the old brown pictures in people's homes."

There was elation in his face, and pride in his voice as the crowd standing well below recognized the unmistakable figure, white-haired and dressed in a black velvet-collared coat, complete with white silk scarf.

The organizers had planned an almost complete re-run of the day in 1912 when Sir Edward Carson signed the City Hall at the time of the home rule crisis. Even the slogan, "We will not have it", was 73 years ago, and perhaps proved the adage that in Northern Ireland, there is no present or future just instant replays of the past.

Up to 100,000 unionists had travelled by bus, train and car to paralyse the city centre and seriously affect the trading of the largest rallies in the province's history. From loyalist heartlands of Belfast poured the working and unemployed classes. A few were in paramilitary-style uniforms.

Coaches brought the unmistakable voice of rural unionism to add their opposition to the Anglo-Irish agreement.

The deafening beat of laments drums, to loyalists a thrilling sound, although to many nationalists a chilling one, greeted both leaders as they emerged from the Victorian City Hall to tumultuous applause. The crowd chattered impatiently throughout a speech by Mr Paisley, which failed to match the moment, but gave a deafening roar as Mr Paisley stepped forward.

He knew what was needed

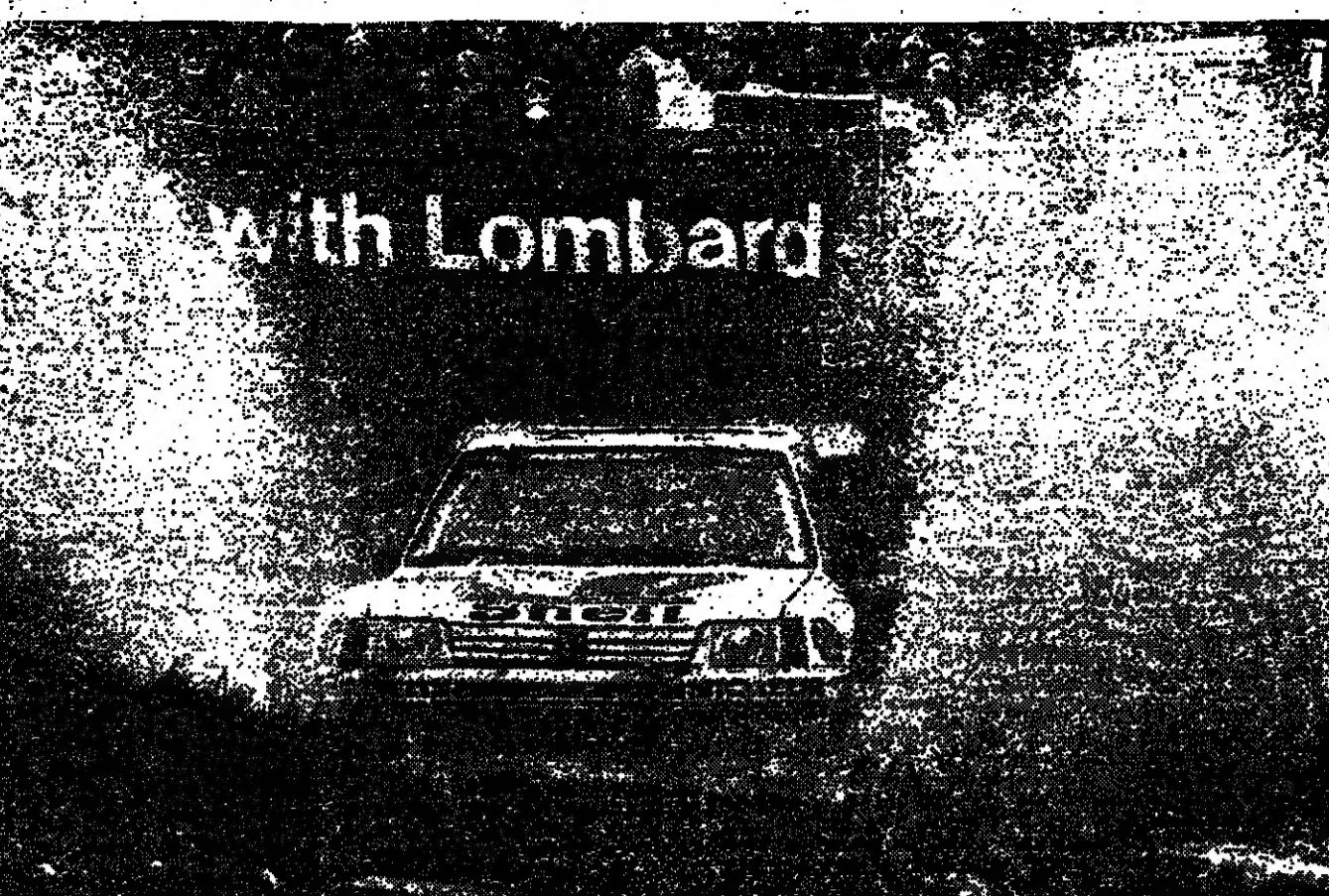
and what they wanted to hear. He spoke of the heart of Ulster being "stricken with deepest sorrow". It had been "deceived", "betrayed", "and denied", and "shattered" by a Conservative prime minister who "at the stroke of a pen signed away to Dublin our inalienable right to equal citizenship with the United Kingdom."

He spoke of the "brave sons and daughters of Ulster" who had been lost in the battle for the province's liberty and freedom: of how its heart had been sustained by pride in its history, gallantry and because they were free citizens of the UK. "British we are, British we shall remain. Now Mrs Thatcher says that the republic must have a say in our province, we say 'never, never, never, never'."

"We are prepared to lay down our lives for Ulster rather than surrender. We have not lost our hope, we shall win this battle." The crowd roared their answer, "yes, yes."

The rally ended with a ceremony similar to that when Carson signed the covenant. The unionist leaders, together with all nationalist MPs except Mr Enoch Powell, signed a document promising to resign their parliamentary seats at Westminster effective from the beginning of January, and submit themselves for re-election before the end of February.

Letters, page 13



Timo Salonen and Seppo Harjanne, of Finland, driving their Peugeot 205 through the water splash at Weston Park, near Telford, during the Lombard Rally yesterday. Report, page 24 (Photograph: Warren Harrison).

## Unionists to warn Thatcher over deal

Continued from page 1

violence was inevitable if democratic standards in the north were abandoned by the Government. He accused her of threatening those standards and said: "If we do not win this battle, Northern Ireland has had it."

Mr Taylor said that any Civil Servants from the Irish Republic who came to work in the Northern Ireland secretariat should be made unwelcome and their lives very unhappy. But he deplored any violence which cost lives.

The Government remain unsure as to how Unionists will be prepared to go in opposing the deal but they are concerned that if loyalists pushed their opposition too far there may be a growing reaction in the rest of the United Kingdom.

Although senior ministers know that industrialists are alarmed at the damage that could be done to the province's economy by scenes such as the attack on Mr Tom King last week, they accept that many Unionists might be prepared to "cut off their noses to spite their faces".

As one loyalist said when

## Rates help goes in benefits reform

By Our Social Services Correspondent

KEY BENEFIT RATES FROM THIS WEEK

Pensions and unemployment benefits will rise by 7 per cent this week in the annual uprating of social security benefits, but the parents of almost 12 million children will see their child benefit will see its real value cut.

Help with rates for those on housing benefit is also being reduced, with more than 500,000 households losing help with rates altogether, but the net effect of the changes will be to add more than £2 billion in a full year to social security spending.

The 7 per cent increase in pensions, taking a couple's pension to £63.30 a week, and a 5.1 per cent rise in supplementary benefit, taking the ordinary rate for a couple to £47.85, is the result of inflation peaking last May, the date from which the increase is calculated.

But the value of child benefit is cut by only 15p to £7 a week when an increase to £7.35 is needed to keep pace with inflation. The cut in its real value saves £75 million, of which only about £17 million is being used

Pensions (earnings rule up from £70 to £75): Single person £38.30; couple £61.30. Unemployment benefit: single person £30.45; couple £49.25. Supplementary benefit ordinary rate: single £29.40; couple £47.85; child £10.10 to £15.10. Child benefit £7.

To improve the family income supplement rates at more than the rate of inflation. About 210,000 families in low-paid work will gain sums ranging from a few pence a week to several pounds, but averaging £1.55.

The increased spending on rate rebates is being cut by £57 million so that two million households, many of them pensioners, will lose an average of 57p a week, but with some losing about £2 and 500,000 losing help with rates altogether.

Against that about 500,000 households with children, chiefly among the working poor, will make gains of up to 40p a week, at a cost of £12 million, from a change in the way housing benefit entitlement is calculated.

## Teachers' union in new strikes threat

Britain's second largest teachers' union is considering a new wave of selective strike action in the term after Christmas, it announced yesterday.

The 127,000-strong National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers warned that the disruption will be severe and few schools can expect to escape unaffected. The union's national action committee will recommend to an executive meeting on Friday that members be instructed to extend their current campaign of selective action lasting up to half-a-day during December and January.

That action involves the withdrawal at various times during the day of key teachers who have heavy time-table responsibilities.

All 104 local authorities in England and Wales would be affected. Mr Fred Smithies, the union's general secretary, said yesterday that only an acceptable interim offer from management would prevent further disruption.

In that case, it was just possible that a new term could begin without strike action.

Head teachers' leaders yesterday sought a meeting with Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, in the wake of the controversy surrounding Mr Ray Honeyford, the Bradford headmaster. Sir Keith is being urged to reduce the "excessive power" enjoyed by local education authorities.

Parents' boycott, Page 4

## Plea to Queen on deaf mute

The Queen and the Prime Minister are to intervene in the case of Glenn Pearson, aged 33, of Caistor, Lincolnshire, a deaf mute who has been jailed for stealing £5.

Mr Jack Payne, chairman of the Special Olympics United Kingdom Committee, has written to them after Judge Wilcock at Lincoln Crown Court sentenced Pearson after being told that his affliction made him unfit to plead.

## County's new fire chief

Derbyshire County Council has chosen a new chief fire officer to succeed Mr Trevor Stevin, who was dismissed in September after being found guilty of disciplinary charges.

The new chief is Mr Kenneth Monk, aged 40, the deputy chief fire officer for Wiltshire. He is expected to take up his duties in the spring.

## Waterloo tribute 168 years late

A three-ton brass cannon intended for a Battle of Waterloo display in 1817 at Wellington, Somerset, to honour the Iron Duke, was unveiled yesterday 168 years late.

The Prince Regent originally promised to present four cannons to mark the battle of a 175-ft commemorative obelisk on Blackdown Hill. But when Russian cannon arrived in 1819 the local committee refused to accept them because they were not used at Waterloo, and they remained on the quay at Exeter.

## Police chief 'well'

Mr Leonard Soper, the chief constable of Gloucestershire, was recovering last night after undergoing minor surgery at Cotswold Nuffield Hospital, Cheltenham.

The Times overseas selling prices: £1.50 (incl. postage) per copy. Canada \$25.00 (incl. postage) per copy. USA \$15.00 (incl. postage) per copy. Australia \$10.00 (incl. postage) per copy. New Zealand \$10.00 (incl. postage) per copy. South Africa \$10.00 (incl. postage) per copy. India \$10.00 (incl. postage) per copy. Japan \$10.00 (incl. postage) per copy. Hong Kong \$10.00 (incl. postage) per copy. Singapore \$10.00 (incl. postage) per copy. Malaysia \$10.00 (incl. postage) per copy. Philippines \$10.00 (incl. postage) per copy. Thailand \$10.00 (incl. postage) per copy. Indonesia \$10.00 (incl. postage) per copy. Singapore \$10.00 (incl. postage) per copy. Malaysia \$10.00 (incl. postage) per copy. Philippines \$10.00 (incl. postage) per copy. Thailand \$10.00 (incl. postage) per copy. Indonesia \$10.00 (incl. postage) per copy.

TENDERS MUST BE LODGED AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND, NEW ISSUES (D), WATLING STREET, LONDON, EC4M 9AA NOT LATER THAN 10.00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER 1985, OR AT ANY OF THE BRANCHES OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND, NEW ISSUES (D), WATLING STREET, LONDON, EC4M 9AA NOT LATER THAN 3.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 1985.

ISSUE OF £1,100,000,000  
10 1/4 per cent EXCHEQUER CONVERTIBLE STOCK 1989  
MINIMUM TENDER PRICE £98.50 PER CENT  
PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS:  
Deposit with lender £40.00 per cent  
On Monday, 13th January 1986 Balance of purchase money  
INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 15TH MAY AND 15TH NOVEMBER

The Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Application has been made to the Council of the Stock Exchange for the Stock to be admitted to the Official List. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of this prospectus will apply equally to the Conversion Stocks as to 10 1/4 per cent Exchequer Convertible Stock, 1989. Interest on the Conversion Stocks will be payable half-yearly on 15th May and 15th November. Income tax will be deducted from payments of more than 25 per cent. Interest warrants will be transmitted by post. The first interest payment will be made on 15th May 1986 at the rate of £3.921 per £100 of the Stock.

1. The principal of and interest on the stock will be a charge on the National Loans Fund, which is the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.  
2. The Stock will be registered at the Bank of England, and will be transferable, in multiples of one penny, by instrument in writing in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1963. Transfers will be free of stamp duty.  
3. Interest will be payable half-yearly on 15th May and 15th November. Income tax will be deducted from payments of more than 25 per cent. Interest warrants will be transmitted by post. The first interest payment will be made on 15th May 1986 at the rate of £3.921 per £100 of the Stock.

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5. Holders of 10 1/4 per cent Exchequer Convertible Stock, 1989 may, at the option of holders, be converted in whole or in part into either 10 per cent Conversion Stock, 1996 or 9 1/2 per cent Conversion Stock, 2006 ("the Conversion Stocks"), or any combination thereof, at the following dates and at the following rates:

Nominal amount of 10 1/4 per cent Conversion Stock, 1996  
per £100 nominal of 10 1/4 per cent Exchequer Convertible Stock, 1989

Nominal amount of 9 1/2 per cent Conversion Stock, 2006  
per £100 nominal of 10 1/4 per cent Exchequer Convertible Stock, 1989

6. Holders of 10 1/4 per cent Exchequer Convertible Stock, 1989 may, at the option of holders, be converted in whole or in part into either 10 per cent Conversion Stock, 1996 or 9 1/2 per cent Conversion Stock, 2006 ("the Conversion Stocks"), or any combination thereof, at the following dates and at the following rates:

Nominal amount of 10 1/4 per cent Conversion Stock, 1996  
per £100 nominal of 10 1/4 per cent Exchequer Convertible Stock, 1989

Nominal amount of 9 1/2 per cent Conversion Stock, 2006  
per £100 nominal of 10 1/4 per cent Exchequer Convertible Stock, 1989

7. Her Majesty's Treasury have directed that Section 326 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 (which relates to the treatment for taxation purposes of financial concerns whose business consists wholly or partly in dealing in securities) shall apply to exchanges of securities made in pursuance of the conversion offer.

8. The Conversion Stocks will be investments falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act 1961, and application will be made to the Council of the Stock Exchange for them to be admitted to the Official List. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of this prospectus will apply equally to the Conversion Stocks as to 10 1/4 per cent Exchequer Convertible Stock, 1989. Interest on the Conversion Stocks will be payable half-yearly on 15th May and 15th November. Income tax will be deducted from payments of more than 25 per cent. Interest warrants will be transmitted by post. The first interest payment will be made on 15th May 1986 at the rate of £3.921 per £100 of the Stock.

9. Holders of 10 1/4 per cent Exchequer Convertible Stock, 1989 in respect of which options to convert have not been exercised will be repaid at par on 15th November 1989.

10. Tenders must be lodged at the Bank of England, New Issues (D), Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA not later than 10.00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER 1985, or at any of the Branches of the Bank of England or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 25 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2BB not later than 3.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 1985. Tenders will not be receivable between 10.00 A.M. on Wednesday, 27th November 1985 and 10.00 A.M. on Monday, 2nd December 1985.

11. Each tender must be for one amount and at one price. The minimum price, below which tenders will not be accepted, is £98.50 per cent. Tenders must be made at the minimum price or at higher prices which are multiples of 25p. Tenders lodged without a price being stated will be deemed to have been made at the minimum price.

12. A separate cheque representing a deposit at the rate of £40.00 for every £100 of the NOMINAL amount of Stock tendered for must accompany each tender; cheques must be drawn on a bank in, and be payable in, the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

13. Tenders must be for a minimum of £100 Stock and for multiples of Stock as follows:

## THIS FORM MAY BE USED

TENDER FORM

This form must be lodged at the Bank of England, New Issues (D), Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA not later than 10.00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 27th NOVEMBER 1985, or at any of the Branches of the Bank of England or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 25 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2BB not later than 3.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 1985.

ISSUE OF £1,100,000,000

10 1/4 per cent Exchequer

Convertible Stock, 1989

MINIMUM TENDER PRICE £98.50 PER CENT

TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND

"We tender in accordance with the terms of the prospectus dated 22nd November 1985 as follows:-"

Amount of above-mentioned Stock tendered for, being a minimum of £100 and in a multiple as follows:-

Amount of deposit enclosed, being £40.00 for every £100 of the NOMINAL amount of Stock tendered for (shown in Box 1 above):-

The price tendered per £100 Stock, being a multiple of 25p and not less than the minimum tender price of £98.50:-

I, We hereby agree to pay the balance of the purchase money when it becomes due on any allotment that may be made in respect of this tender, as provided by the said prospectus.

I We request that any letter of allotment in respect of Stock allotted to me/us be sent to me/us at my/our risk to me/us at the address shown below.

SIGNATURE..... of, or on behalf of, tenderer

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

MR/MS/MISS FORE-NAME(S) IN FULL SURNAME

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS:-

POST-TOWN COUNTY POSTCODE

A separate cheque must accompany each tender. Cheques should be made payable to "Bank of England" and must be drawn on a bank in, and be payable in, the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

The price tendered must be a multiple of 25p and not less than the minimum tender price. If no price is stated, the tender will be deemed to have been made at the minimum tender price. Each tender must be for one amount and at one price.

## NF man's complaint over report

By Our Architecture Correspondent

The *New York Times* was justified in rejecting a claim by an active and committed member of the National Front that he was opposed to violence, the Press Council said yesterday.

The council said, however, that the newspaper should have corrected a caption that wrongly identified the man as marching with skinheads. It added that it was not satisfied that other specific and very serious allegations made against him had been substantiated.

To that extent the council upheld a complaint by Mr Patrick Harrington, of Roland Gardens, London, SW7, that the article contained significant inaccuracies and false and damaging allegations which it declined to correct.

The newspaper reported that Mr Harrington had when he claimed he was against violence. It also carried a caption which read: "On the march: Harrington, circled, strides out with skinheads in London last month."

## Display to mark 100 years of skyscrapers

By Our Architecture Correspondent

The model of a glass tower designed by Derek Walker Associates of Pilkington Brothers (examined on the right) by Mr Paul Finch, editor of *Building Design*, the trade newspaper) is one of 16 such models commissioned by the newspaper to mark the centenary of the skyscraper.

In 1885, the Home Insurance Company Headquarters, the first of the tall steel-frame buildings, was completed. The centenary models are to be featured at Interbuild, the international building and construction exhibition opening today at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

Mr Finch said yesterday: "Tall buildings are very much in the news, especially with the three 800-ft-high skyscrapers to be built in Canary Wharf, London Docklands."

Interbuild, the largest industry exhibition ever held in Britain with 1,200 British and overseas exhibitors filling all eight halls of the centre, closes next Saturday.



## Local ombudsmen: 1 Investigators without enforcement power

Mr John Hawkins wants to sell his home and save himself a 90-mile daily round trip to work. But there is a snag. The market value of the house is now more than £40,000, he explains. But "at the moment you would be lucky to get much more than £25,000 for it."

A visitor to the neat road where the Hawkins family lives will see nothing wrong with the house, because its problems are all underground. Mr Frederick Laws, the local ombudsman for south-west England, sums up the case thus: "Mr A complains that the council failed to carry out the responsibilities under the building regulations to ensure that the sewers were laid at such a level as to be self-cleaning."

What that means for Mr A, as John Hawkins is described throughout the ombudsman's investigation of his case, is that his sewers and those of his neighbours become blocked with little provocation. It will cost well over £100,000 to put the system right.

Savill Crescent, where they all live, is part of an estate near the edge of Swindon, Wiltshire, which is celebrated by its borough council as one of the fastest-growing and most progressive towns in Europe.

Mr Hawkins decided more than two years ago that the attitude of the council towards

The Government refuses to give more power to local ombudsmen, arguing that there is little need for it. But as Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent, explains in the first of three articles, that "little" can mean a lot to those who fall through the net.

paying for an adequate sewer was less than satisfactory. "It was a complete 'get knotted', he said.

He decided to approach Mr Laws, one of the five local ombudsmen in Britain whose jobs were created 11 years ago. They act as independent watchdogs who investigate allegations of injustice against councils and other public bodies outside the Government.

Mr Laws and his staff were able to slice quickly through the tangle of red tape in which the case was enmeshed. Some of the sewer inspections had been done not by the present borough council, called Thamesdown, but by a rural predecessor that it had absorbed in the local government reorganization of 1974.

Some had been done on behalf of the Thames Water Authority, and some by the builder of the estate. Mr Laws delivered his verdict in February. "I am satisfied that the council's inspection of the four-inch sewer serving Mr A's property was inadequate in that it failed to identify the serious

faults subsequently found in the council's survey of the estate."

Mr Laws has no regrets about seeking the ombudsman's help. "If I had not gone to him we would be nowhere near where we now are," he says. "We have got a lot of information that we would not otherwise have got. There seems to be no tie-up between departments in the council, but the ombudsman knows where to go."

Mr Laws called on Thamesdown council to explain "the financial provision they propose to make" and concluded that the council was guilty of "a fault amounting to maladministration from which the complainant has suffered injustice."

But the story did not end there. In the spring the council had established that Mr Laws expected it to foot half the bill for securing an adequate flow through the Savill Crescent sewers. By the summer it had offered nothing, and Mr Laws issued a tart reminder.

"It seems to me quite wrong for the council to make an inadequate inspection of the

four-inch sewer, and then, no doubt because of the present financial climate for local government, to saddle the complainant and others in his position with the consequences of their maladministration."

Mr Hawkins, who says he has lost £1,000 through taking time off to pursue the sewer case, has joined the minority of those who slip through the ombudsmen's net. In cases like those of the Savill Crescent sewers, the ombudsmen's verdicts are left in limbo. There is no provision in law for councils to be forced to abide by them or to appeal against them.

For the residents of Savill Crescent, it means that the waiting continues. Mrs Gwen Poole, chairman of the residents' association created to tackle the sewers, says: "It is just one delaying tactic after another." She claims that some members of the Labour-dominated council are opposed in principle to the use of ratepayers' money for repairs to private property.

The council denies any legal liability for the sewer defect and says officers had been told to try to arrange a meeting with residents of Savill Crescent and the builder concerned to see if "any progress can be made towards a 'gentleman's' meeting for the council to make an adequate inspection of the

Tomorrow: Taking the initiative



## Routine vaccination of children against tuberculosis may stop

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government is considering halting the routine vaccination of school children against tuberculosis within the next four years, although there are still more than 6,000 tuberculosis cases a year.

The programme, in which about 13 million children aged about 13 are vaccinated each year, would be replaced by a more selective policy in which only babies born to parents of Asian and African extraction, immigrants from areas where tuberculosis is prevalent, health service staff, and a few other groups at high risk, would be vaccinated as a routine.

The proposal, however, has divided epidemiologists and specialists in treating the disease. On the Department of Health's own figures the change would lead to a small increase in tuberculosis among people aged 15 to 29 in the following decade.

The change will come only if a further survey of tuberculosis shows that the regular fall in cases of about 9 per cent a year is maintained.

But Dr Tom Pollock, a member of the Government's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), on whose advice the proposal has been made, said: "I don't agree with that decision. I don't think it is wise. Once you stop you gradually get a whole generation growing up who have never been in contact with tuberculosis and who have never been immunised. They are going to be highly vulnerable. If this does go ahead I would expect a small increase in tuberculosis in the unimmunised in the years to come."

"It will not be anything dramatic like whooping cough, but I would expect a gradual build up. With modern treatment, tuberculosis is nothing like the serious condition it used to be, but it is still an

unpleasant and sometimes dangerous disease." The argument for a selective policy is that with the decline in tuberculosis, down to 6,800 cases in 1983 from more than 11,000 in 1973, the vaccination programme is stopping fewer cases developing, and the money would be better spent on high risk groups and treating the small number of extra cases that would occur in the next few years.

The Department of Health admitted last week that it has no detailed analysis available to show the relative costs and benefits of the two approaches, and that it cannot even give the cost of the current vaccination programme. "That is something we are going to have to look into further before a final decision is made," a spokesman said.

Dr Ian Sutherland, director of the Medical Research Council's biostatistics unit, on whose work the proposal is also partly based, said the rate of decline of tuberculosis was such that most people were not going to be exposed to it, and the risk would not be much greater if there were a few more active cases when tuberculosis as a whole was declining.

His work argues that stopping vaccinations in 1991 would lead to extra cases up to a maximum of 40 a year in the year 2001, after which tuberculosis would continue to decline. "There is no doubt it is much more expensive to maintain the scheme than treat the additional cases which will arise. The argument is much more in humanitarian terms; whether it is better to allow a few extra cases than to insist on trying to prevent them."

However, Dr Christine Miller, an epidemiologist at the Central Public Health Laboratory, said: "I believe it is too soon to stop. Tuberculosis can

be highly infectious. There have been ten or twelve outbreaks in the past four or five years and all of them have been not in the high risk groups, such as the immigrant or Asian population, but in unvaccinated adults and school children. The vaccination programme is quite expensive, but there are also difficulties in putting children on the powerful drugs used to treat tuberculosis."

Dr Michael George, a chest physician at the North Devon Hospital, Barnstaple, who last year dealt with an outbreak among 332 children infected by an adult at a school Christmas party, said: "I would be opposed to stopping now, although I think by the year 2000 it might be realistic to scale the programme down. The Government wants to stop it because of the cost, but I think most chest physicians would prefer it to continue."

While the vaccination programme costs money, so do tracing contacts when cases occurred. In the Devon outbreak 2,000 contacts had to be traced, tested and X-rayed.

That is an expensive undertaking," Dr George said. He also questioned whether a selective policy of vaccinating chiefly the children of Asian and Afro-Caribbean would be politically acceptable. "What you are saying is the blacks get it and the whites don't. I think that would be very difficult to deal with."

However, Dr Martin McNicol, a chest physician in Brent, London, which has one of the highest tuberculosis rates in the country, said he thought the proposal "probably reasonable."

The Department of Health last week refused to release the background papers on which the JCVI made its recommendation, saying they were "confidential".



Thousands of Muslims converged on Hyde Park, London, yesterday to celebrate the birth of their prophet, Muhammad, more than 500 years ago. Prayers were sent by satellite throughout the Muslim world. (Photograph: Chris Harris).

## MPs seek action on risky toys

More than 50 MPs from all parties are due to call on the Government today for tough new rules on deadly and dangerous toys entering the country, particularly from the Far East.

The call is being led by Mr Conal Gregory, Conservative MP for York.

Mr Gregory, father of two, is calling on the Government to act against unscrupulous manufacturers and dubious retailers.

## Rape attacks rise by 27% this year

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The number of rape attacks in the first six months of the year increased by 27 per cent, the Home Office reports.

There were a total of 780 rapes in England and Wales compared with 613 for the same period in 1984, and 591 in 1983. However, the Home Office adds that the figures represent only the attacks reported and that the actual number will be far higher.

Between 1974 and 1981 the number of reported rape cases

## Dan-Air top of charter flight table

Dan-Air has overtaken Britannia Airways, according to the latest figures on charter holiday flights.

The figures, for June, show that Dan-Air increased the number of charter passengers it flew to more than 3 per cent to 441,368. Britannia flew almost 17 per cent fewer passengers in the same period, at 411,519.

British AirTours, subsidiary of British Airways, was third, followed by Monarch.

## Shakespeare 'find' sets academics buzzing

By Patricia Clough

The academic world was intrigued yesterday over the claim that a highly respected Shakespearean scholar had found what he believes to be an early poem by Shakespeare.

The poem, a 90-line, nine-stanza love poem, was found 11 days ago by Mr Gary Taylor, aged 32, a leading Shakespearean textual analyst in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. It was contained in a seventeenth century leatherbound handwritten anthology.

Mr Taylor, an American who is joint general editor of the Oxford University Press's *New Complete Shakespeare*, said there was no question of it being a forgery. "We have run every stylistic test known to Shakespeare scholarship and have done everything to test the authenticity of the manuscript," he said.

Dr Peter Beal, Sotheby's manuscript expert, who has examined the book, said: "It is not a forgery and it is attributed to Shakespeare. I think it is not totally improbable that there are undiscovered Shakespeare poems around."

Professor Philip Brockbank, director of Birmingham University's Shakespeare Institute and editor of the rival *New Cambridge Shakespeare*, shared Mr Taylor's view that scholars may now be stimulated to look through seventeenth century anthologies with a fresh interest.

Professor Brockbank said that although he had not seen the poem he regarded the claim by his friend and colleague as perfectly serious.

Professor John Carey, the Merton Professor of English Literature at Oxford, said he was unconvinced because of the quality of the poem.

Dr Wells, the other general editor of OUP's *New Complete Shakespeare* said the poem will be included in the new edition when it is published next year.

## Man held in Chelsea inquiry

Scotland Yard detectives investigating the planting of two bombs outside Chelsea Barracks in London two weeks ago were yesterday questioning a man. The Irish National Liberation Army claimed to have planted the bombs.

Six other men and three women, detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act have now been released, Scotland Yard said.

The arrests, two last Wednesday and eight on Friday, were supervised by Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the C13 anti-terrorist branch.

## Dig find may be lost royal manor house

The remains of a fourteenth century manor house unearthed in Bermondsey, south-east London, may have been the country residence of Edward III.

An exploratory dig has been completed by archaeologists from the Museum of London. It showed large sections of the north and west walls. The building seems to have been at least 960 square feet and the archaeologists believe that further excavation could show evidence of dwellings going back to Saxon times.

Archaeologists on the dig say they are at least 90 per cent certain that it was a royal residence. Mr Harvey Sheldon,

from the Museum of London, says there is evidence that Edward III built a house in the Rotherhithe/Bermondsey area.

He says there is documentary evidence of an old royal manor house being used in the mid-seventeenth century as a pottery house. The site contains many fragments of the Delft ware pots of the period.

The dig was in the middle of the Cherry Garden Pier site, however, is earmarked by the London Dockland Development Corporation for expensive housing.

The corporation says it finds the discovery exciting and hopes to help the museum with the investigation.

## Inquiry on helicopter link between airports

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Massive public objections are expected at the inquiry opening today into a renewed attempt by British Caledonian to continue the Heathrow to Gatwick helicopter service.

A previous effort to retain the service, which flies over prosperous commuter areas in Surrey and Sussex, was rejected by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, on environmental grounds last year. He ruled that it should stop next February, four months after a fast coach service opened on new sections of the M25 linking the two airports.

Now B-Cal has come back with two new routes which it says will cause less nuisance to people under the flightpath; but the public seems more incensed than ever by B-Cal's refusal to accept defeat.

More than 2,000 objections, a record number, have been lodged in advance. The Civil Aviation Authority has hired a hall in the Comaught Rooms off Kingsway in central London for a fortnight, also a record for a CAA hearing. To keep the inquiry manageable the number of objectors has been

limited to a representative 26, including five MPs, two county councillors and 11 local councillors and representatives of the National Trust, the Royal Horticultural Society and local residents' groups.

B-Cal argues that the new M25 coach service, which started last week, does not make the helicopter unnecessary. The coach takes 50 minutes for the 30-mile trip and charges £9 single; the helicopter takes 15 minutes and would normally be free to passengers.

But more important to international passengers transferring from long-haul flights is the well known principle that people are reluctant to leave the "aviation environment" by making a cross-country land trip between airports.

Objectors are not impressed. B-Cal's new routes regularly overfly several communities: Staines, Woking, Hampton, the Molesey, the Dittons, Hook, Chesham and Epsom, not seriously bothered before. "The environmental disturbance would be unnecessary and unacceptable," Surrey County Council says.

## Money needed so teenagers can voice their views

A £500,000 London Youthscan Appeal has been launched to enable 1,400 London teenagers to be part of a "living diary" on their 16th birthday next April.

The teenagers are among 15,000 who have contributed to the diary since their birth in the same week in April, 1970. Three main studies of their families, education and lifestyles have so far provided important research for education experts and sociologists.

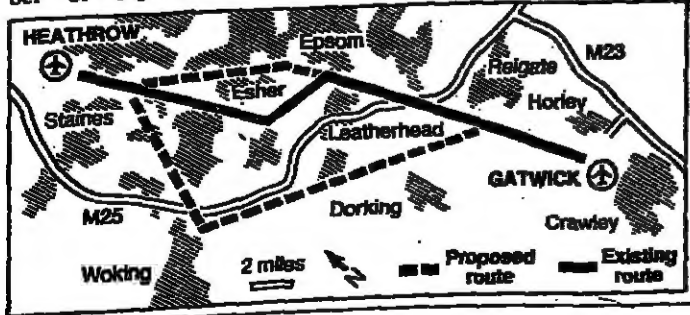
Professor Neville Butler, director of Youthscan UK, and the International Centre for Child Studies, which runs the project, said: "We want to gauge their attitudes towards drugs, education, family and peer group pressures, employment and ambitions."

The national survey, which includes an average of four teenagers at every secondary school in Britain, will cost £5 million.

Professor Butler, a paediatrician and professor emeritus of child health at Bristol University, said 60 per cent of the teenagers will leave school by their 16th birthday. Of the remainder, only one in four will go to university.

## Jay divorce

Mr Peter Jay, aged 48, Britain's former ambassador in Washington and former chief executive of TV-am, is divorcing his wife, Margaret, aged 44, daughter of the former Labour Prime Minister, Mr James Callaghan, in an uncontested case set for hearing in the London Divorce Court.



## Whitehouse complaint over 'EastEnders'

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers and Listeners Association, has written to Mr Stuart Young, chairman of the BBC, complaining that the new soap opera *EastEnders* undermines the corporation's policy that programmes shown before 9 pm should not be unsuitable for children.

Mrs Whitehouse accuses Mr Michael Grade, Controller of BBC 1, of being primarily concerned with audience rating

figures, irrespective of the price at which they are won.

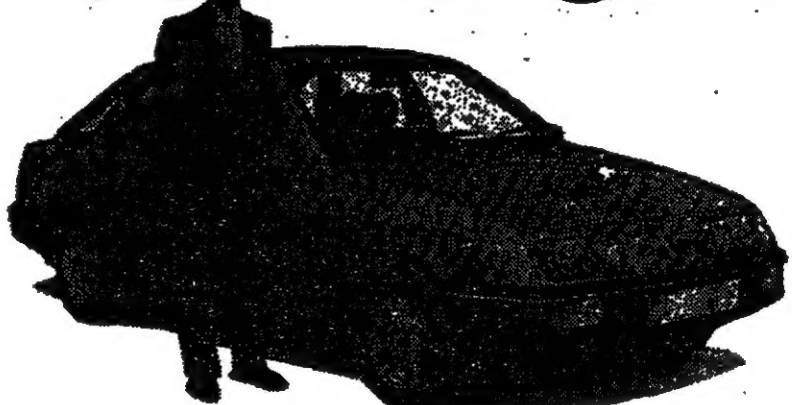
She quotes BBC guidelines saying that plays depicting family insecurity and marital infidelity may be "deeply disturbing" to children, and that they are likely to be particularly upset by portrayals of violence in a setting closely resembling their own. She gives examples from *EastEnders*.

Mrs Whitehouse says: "The purpose of this letter is to seek from you an assurance that the

concept of 'the watershed' in the terms set out by the BBC itself still exists in real terms. It is difficult to resist the conclusion that Michael Grade is a law unto himself, whose prime concern is audience ratings, irrespective of at what price they are won."

"This so-called 'soap opera' amounts to an onslaught on the BBC's own declared standards and for those, as chairman, you and your fellow governors are responsible."

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## Financial limits go up today for aid in civil and criminal cases

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

New financial limits on eligibility for civil and criminal legal aid, now the fastest-growing of social services expenditure, come into force today.

The changes increase the income limit on which civil and criminal legal aid is means tested by just over 5 per cent, so that large numbers of people will not be excluded from the scheme because their income has risen with inflation.

Therefore the lower net income limit for civil legal aid, for which 70 per cent of the population qualifies, becomes £2,355, below which no contributions are paid. The upper income limit becomes £5,415, over which legal aid is not available.

Capital limits remain the same, at £3,000 for the lower limit, in line with that for supplementary benefit, and £4,710 for the upper capital limit.

Criminal legal aid is also means-tested for the purposes of contribution; the new net income limit is £46 a week, above which defendants have to pay towards their own costs.

The changes come into force at a time when the Lord Chancellor is being pressed to

expand the legal aid budget on a number of fronts.

Demand for criminal legal aid in particular is rising especially rapidly in line with the increase in crime: 90 per cent of criminal defence cases are legally aided.

Indictable crime has gone up at an average compound rate of 10 per cent a year. This year the rise is expected to be half as much again, with an increase of 15 per cent or more over the first six months.

There has also been an upsurge in demand for civil legal aid, particularly for matrimonial cases.

Against this background the Government is committed to finding another £20 million, one third of the total cost of criminal legal aid, for the 24-hour duty solicitor scheme in police stations, starting on January 1.

At the same time, both branches of the legal profession are about to start a tough pay battle with the Lord Chancellor over rates of pay for criminal work. They are seeking not only annual uprating for inflation but a fundamental review of the regulations governing their earnings.

## Boycott of schools plan to support teachers

By Patricia Clough

Parents of pupils at one of Britain's best known comprehensive schools are seeking to organize a boycott of London schools in support of the teachers.

The initiative was agreed at a parent-teacher-student meeting in Holland Park School last week in which parents unanimously supported the teachers in their dispute with the government over pay, parent-governors said.

About 250 parents, the highest attendance on record, pressed for an all-out teachers' strike to end the dispute. But they were told that the rules of the National Union of Teachers, to which 90 per cent of the staff belong, forbids that.

Instead they agreed, with only two or three votes against, to try to persuade parents' organizations in other London schools to join them in withdrawing their children from school in an indefinite action.

"The parents and governors would have preferred an all-out strike," Mr Quintin Hoare, outgoing chairman of the School Association and a parent governor, said. "The prospect of years of this kind of demoralizing situation is much worse than the loss of schooling for a limited time."

Mr Chris Penfold, chairman of the board of governors, said the parents feel that the teachers' action has been



Sixth-year pupils of Holland Park School, who are taking A and O level tests, after they missed lessons last Friday morning (Photograph: Chris Harris a).

inadequate. A real push is needed not just to settle a question of pay but to get a change in the Government's attitude towards state schools.

"We parents want to do more," he said. A boycott will create "a high level of embarrassment for the Government".

The parents would be acting illegally in withdrawing their

children and they could expect to be visited by the inspectors. The parents' response would be to declare that their children are not getting an adequate education in their schools as they are at present.

"We felt that now is the time to take action because we think the Government does not give a damn about teachers," he said.

Holland Park, which has about 1,500 pupils, is suffering badly from the dispute. The school has been closed for four days this term and is heading for another two days' strike next month. Homework is not marked except in examination classes, children are frequently sent home early, lunches have minimal supervision and inter-

faculty co-ordination and parent contact is at a standstill.

It is also suffering acutely the effects of the low-pay and expenditure cuts which the teachers are protesting about. The governors have advertised three times for a new headmaster to replace Dr Derek Rushworth, who is retiring, but response has been minimal.

## Dentists call for fairer fee system for patients

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Dentists are pressing health ministers to change the "incomprehensible" system of charging for National Health Service dental work to one where patients would pay a straight percentage of the cost of their treatment.

But they doubt that ministers will agree, because the charges for NHS treatment are so high that patients would have to pay 72 per cent of the cost of every treatment.

The British Dental Association said yesterday that the present charging system, where patients pay the first £17, and 40 per cent of the remainder, up to a maximum of £115, is "extremely complicated and almost incomprehensible to patients".

It has produced bizarre anomalies where for many treatments patients in fact pay all or almost all of the cost, while for others, often costing much the same, the NHS may contribute a third or more.

A switch to a straight percentage would be fairer and easier to understand, the association said.

The government, however, has raised dental charges by so much, a 25 per cent increase this year after big increases in preceding years, that those who pay would have to meet 72 per cent of the bill if the present £115 maximum charge was retained.

### Provincial sale spotlight

## Strong market for restored 'antiques'

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

"Nobody wants stripped pine any more around here, although interest is growing in America," said Goddard. "I'm moving more and more into interior decoration," a dealer, who is one of the most active bidders at Fraser Glennie's, Cirencester, says.

Another dealer has a warehouse in Malmesbury full of what he called "antiques and pine", nearly all bought at auction, which he sells to both trade and private purchasers.

Interior decorating is a good term to cover the type of "antiques" that are heavily restored, or partly modern or marriages of different old pieces, maybe even of different date.

There are plenty about. Indeed, it is what most antique shops are full of. In the main, the pieces look nicer than reproduction furniture from department stores and they are better made and significantly cheaper.

Most of the Glennie furniture is in that category; there were half a dozen dealers and a good number of private people competing in the rooms and many purchasers, without time to attend the sale, had left bids with the auctioneer.

The sole stripped pine chest of drawers in the sale went to the pine dealer at £68. By comparison a straightforward, more or less untouched, late nineteenth century mahogany chest with wooden handles and brass edging to the keyholes made only marginally more at £75.

Neither, of course, had the smart "antique" look about them. A dark oak chest in the eighteenth century style, although probably country-made in the nineteenth, had glancingly bright modern handles of eighteenth century design

(they'll fade soon enough) and made £180, in other words a more serious price bracket.

But again, mahogany is grander than oak, and a rather flashy bow-fronted chest veneered in mahogany with a cross-banded top that also had glancingly modern handles, made £260.

In among the furniture of mixed antiquity was an oak gate-leg table in good condition with a fruitwood star inlaid in its centre, apparently an eighteenth century piece in a better class than the rest.

That piece attracted the serious trade and sold to a local specialist at £820 whereas Glennie had expected £300 to £400. No less than eight hopeful purchasers had left commissions with him.

The silver section of the sale was where the public could find bargains. A silver sweet bowl (3½ oz) prettily embossed and chased was left unsold at £40; it would probably retail at about £100.

A private buyer secured a little salt and pepper set, looking brand new and still in its original case, at £25. That would have sold for at least £50 in a shop. Another private buyer secured a pleasing sugar sifter in eighteenth-century style, although made in Birmingham in 1913, at £52.

Other items discussed in the preview of the sale included: a potty full of dolls, that made £14; an inlaid walnut davenport, £410; a pole screen, £55; a three-seat sofa with glass shelves, more than £150; a dumb-waiter, £250; a round mahogany table with three curved legs, £110; a blue and white pottery wash-basin £50; 18 plated forks, 29; and 12 bone-handled knives, £18.

New York sale room, page 14

# KEEPING THE FINANCIAL DIRECTOR SWEET.

One of the major contracts for Woods Transport of Essex is British Sugar. So close is the relationship that Woods are actually based in British Sugar's factory at Felsted.

And equally close is their relationship with Mercedes, reconfirmed in November 1984 by the arrival of a new transporter. In 1984, about eighteen months ago, British Sugar awarded us the tough assignment of the London multi-drop delivery, says Drew Woods, and the only suitable vehicle we had for the home and external run was our extremely elderly ST 109. It was a fact that the old van never let us down, but it was apparent that we needed new vehicles.

It was the exceptional sales price that prompted me to order another Mercedes. Our previous experience with Mercedes had given us every confidence.

It was only a few days after our two 1978 109s had arrived that I was told you can save with Mercedes.

Admittedly we've recently had them re-engined, but well over 300,000 miles each on the same power units has done me very nicely thank you.

And our new 814 shows every sign of being just as good. It nips in and out of the thick of the London traffic, working on maximum payload of 3.5 tonnes, and yet we're still averaging 15.4-16 mpg.

It's now done 35,500 kms and the only maintenance has been routine servicing.

That's what I expect from Mercedes.

I know they don't test new models on their customers.

And finally, the driver thinks it's nicer to drive than the car he comes to work in. Its manoeuvrability and short wheelbase make it difficult to access so easy.

After all, it's a sweet vehicle.

Or to put it another way.

Once you've got the taste for Mercedes, you can't come back for more.

**METICULOUS ENGINEERING DOESN'T COST YOU. IT PAYS YOU.**

Mercedes-Benz (United Kingdom) Limited

## Battle to keep £400m properties

By Charles Kneivitt  
Architecture Correspondent

A trust is to be launched at a public meeting in Covent Garden tonight to ensure that the Greater London Council's landholdings in the area will not be sold when it is abolished next April.

The council owns 15 acres of property worth more than £400 million, in Covent Garden accounting for about a quarter of all its property assets. A transfer order to be published by the Government on January 1 is expected to give control to the London Residuary Body.

Covent Garden Community Association, which defeated large-scale redevelopment plans in the early 1970s, is setting up the trust. It is campaigning against the City of Westminster, which is understood to have been pressing the Government to give it control so that it can acquire and then sell off the property on the open market.

Camden council, whose boundary with Westminster straddles the area, is expected to support the trust at the meeting. The trust intends to continue with the existing land management policy, resist pressure for unsympathetic commercial development, and promote mixed use, including housing for local people.

## MPs attack Sinn Fein Welsh trip

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

The Welsh Language Society has been condemned by Conservative MPs for inviting a delegation from Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Provisional IRA, to visit Wales to learn about the revival of the language.

The invitation follows a recent visit by society members to Belfast after which they criticized the British Army for placing Roman Catholic areas under a "continuous state of military siege".

The six society members said their visit was purely to learn the upsurge in the Irish language but Mr Wyn Roberts, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Welsh Office, said their actions alienated support for the Welsh language.

Mr Keith Best, Conservative MP for Ynys Mon, said society supporters had in the past demonstrated "a gratuitous and cynical regard for other people's property".

"Are they now trying to gain from Sinn Fein capacity to carry on an armed struggle in furtherance of their cause?" Mr Steve Davies, Gwynedd chairman of the society said: "Although the invitation came from Sinn Fein, we met many groups involved with the revival of the Irish language. All our discussions were purely matters related to the encouragement of minority languages".



## Pope holds a strong hand as bishops start to examine state of Church

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Principal events in the recent history of the Roman Catholic Church and its relationship with the papacy.

1879 The First Vatican Council officially proclaimed the infallibility of the Pope.

1907 Pope Pius X condemned heresy in the encyclical "Modestus" which sought to reconcile the faith with scientific knowledge and contemporary philosophy. All priests were required to take an oath against Modernism.

1929 Lateran Treaty with Italy recognized independence of Vatican City, ending the "Prisoner in the Vatican" stage of Papal history which stemmed from the loss of the Papal States in the previous century.

1950 Pope Pius XII proclaimed Dogma of the Assumption to be infallible.

1962-65 Second Vatican Council, called by Pope John XXIII to "open the windows", became more revolutionary than any had expected, with new weight given to bishops and laity, vernacular Mass, recognition of human rights, condemnation of anti-Semitism.

1963 Pope John XXIII published encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, welcoming co-operation with "all men of good will".

The first working assembly of the Vatican's special synod of bishops begins today with four reports on the state of the Church since the Second Vatican Council ended two decades ago.

The synod was called by the Pope to review the way the council's teachings have been applied. It will sit until December 8, the twentieth anniversary of the end of the council, but so fundamentally changed the Roman Catholic Church's approach to modern-day problems.

In his homily at St Peter's yesterday, the Pope made only one substantive reference to the synod, saying that it would start "with the same openness to what the Holy Spirit may say, the same love for the church, the same gratitude to Divine Providence, which filled the council fathers 20 years ago".

In a typical gesture, the Pope insisted that the cardinals, archbishops, bishops and priests who make up the synod should enter the basilica in procession across St Peter's Square and up the huge steps of the main entrance, just as the council fathers did 20 years ago.

He had been asked if the procession might take a shorter route in the event of bad weather, but he sternly ruled

out any change. Luckily, the sun shone.

While he made no reference to the substance of the coming debate, the Pope made it clear in his homily the significance he attaches to the synod. The day chosen for its opening, he pointed out, was the Feast of Christ the King. He was warm in his welcome to the 165 full synod members and to guests, including observers from 10 other Christian churches and communities.

He is seen in one sense as having strengthened his hand by limiting his remarks about the synod to generalities. Its preparation was hurried and haphazard, and gives little indication of the form the debates will take.

The Pope's personal views on the need for a strong central authority in Rome are well enough known, and he is unlikely to change them. Yet a clear statement on where he stands on fundamental questions arising out of the council's teachings, such as Rome's relationship with the bishops, would have provided a convenient basis for discussion.

The synod does not yet know whether it should be preparing a document of its own to place before the Pope, or whether its advisory role will have been fulfilled if the members simply express their views and leave



The Pope and his bishops cross St Peter's Square.

him to act on them as he sees fit.

His handling of the synod so far makes it difficult to imagine, however, that it will have done nothing at all by the time it ends.

It is part of an unprecedented series of consultations which began last week with a committee of 12 cardinals who looked at the growing problem

of the Vatican's budget deficit.

This was followed by a 2-day session of the Sacred College of Cardinals, only the third in this pontificate, at which 122 cardinals were present. Their task was to look at a project for changes in the Roman Curia, the Vatican's administrative machine.

And now it is the turn of the bishops.

## Colombian drugs ring broken by US agents

Jersey City, New Jersey (AP)

The seizure of nearly 1,500lb of cocaine and the arrest of 27 people toppled a family-run Colombian drug ring as powerful as any US organized crime family, authorities said.

The 671 packages of cocaine, worth an estimated \$600 million (\$414 million) was confiscated on Friday in New York. There were other raids in New Jersey, Puerto Rico and Florida, where the ringleader was arrested.

Most of the ringleaders were arrested in New York, said the Hudson County prosecutor, Mr. Harold Ruvalcaba. "A major international distribution ring was eliminated from the market," he said.

More than 6,000lb of cocaine seized in the United States in the past decade have been linked to a family operation headed by a woman aged 57 in West Palm Beach, Florida, authorities said. The drug ring is run by her six children and various relatives by marriage, said Mr. Jack Short, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent. He said the woman was arrested at her home.

"It appears it's the largest seizure of cocaine in the North East," said Mr. Robert Feldkamp, public affairs director for the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration in Washington.

The biggest US cocaine seizure was on March 9, 1982, when more than 3,243lb was confiscated at a Miami airport.

## Pace of streamlining hot up

## Gorbachov overhauls sluggish economy

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

A campaign is intensifying in the Soviet Union to streamline the country and lay the ground for next spring's 27th congress of the Communist Party, widely expected to be one of the most significant in its history.

At the centre of the political activity is Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the party leader whose standing has been greatly reinforced by his performance during last week's summit meeting with President Reagan. Diplomats predict that the bulk of his attention will now be devoted to domestic matters in the run-up to the congress.

International attention will be focused on the extent to which Mr Gorbachov can continue to strengthen his own position and break down in-built conservative and bureaucratic opposition to his plans for rapid social and economic change.

More changes in senior personnel are confidently pre-

dicted in the coming two months.

The extent to which technological backwardness has got to be overcome was highlighted recently by the shock expressed by one first-time British visitor here when he discovered that in most Moscow stores all calculations are still performed by a hand-operated abacus.

Yesterday Soviet officials confirmed that a meeting of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) is due to take place in Moscow tomorrow.

The Supreme Soviet is due to approve the 1986 budget and plan, the first in Mr Gorbachov's five-year-blueprint, which is designed to rejuvenate the sluggish economy and improve the lot of the hard-pressed Soviet consumer. The approval is a formality as the Supreme Soviet always endorses party policy with a unanimous vote.

## Food ministries merged

From Our Correspondent, Moscow

The streamlining of the antiquated Soviet governmental structure was speeded-up on Friday with the reorganization of the agriculture and food supply administration by means of the merger of five ministries into a superministry.

Agriculture had already been pinpointed by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet party

leader, as one of the areas most in need of radical change. Under the scheme, the ministries to be merged are those of agriculture, fruit and vegetable production, the meat and dairy industry, the food industry and agricultural production, as well as the State Committee for the Production and Technical Supervision of Agriculture.

## Vatican £34m in the red

Rome (AFP) - The Vatican is heading for a \$50 million (£34 million) deficit in 1985, compared with an operating shortfall of \$33.7 million last year, figures published here showed.

The figures were released at the weekend after a plenary session of the Sacred College of Cardinals, some of whom appealed to the faithful to give generously to enable the Pope to carry out his tasks on behalf of

the Roman Catholic Church and humanity.

The books were balanced last year only with difficulty, and after making a "limited" call on asset reserves.

It was noted that one factor in budget expenses was a 15 per cent pay rise for members of the union representing Vatican employees.

Several cardinals expressed concern at the use of reserves

## Thousands pay tribute to Franco

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Large crowds marched down the Castellana, Madrid's main thoroughfare, yesterday to mark the 10th anniversary of Franco's death. Extreme right-wingers marched with those Spaniards who evidently feel a nostalgia for the law and order of the previous regime.

The Ex-Combatants' Confederation, veterans who fought on Franco's side in the Civil War, succeeded in the chief object of getting what appeared to be the largest demonstration. Madrid has seen since the dictator's death. The actual anniversary fell on Wednesday, but the organizers postponed the most important demonstration to yesterday to allow weekend excursions by coach, rail and car from the provinces to the capital.

Franco's daughter, Carmen Duchess of Franco, led the marchers, together with several of Franco's surviving ministers, all helping to carry a massive red and yellow Spanish flag.

The turnout was estimated between 100,000 and 200,000 but there was the usual battle of figures afterwards, reflecting political sympathies. The organizers had decided in advance that 1 million Spaniards would be on parade, but Madrid's Socialist-controlled municipal police put the figure as low as 50,000.

Franco's widow, Doña Carmen Polo, aged 84, had attended a memorial Mass on Saturday which filled the vast nave of the Basilica of the Valley of the Fallen outside Madrid, where the dictator is buried.

## Wife dies in dowry fire prank

Jaipur (Reuters) - A wife's practical joke about brides with scanty dowries being killed by the husband's family ended in her being burnt alive, police said.

They said Mamta Gulati, aged 20, sprinkled herself with paraffin and then struck a match at their home here. Before she died she told police her act was a joke to emulate the agony of brides who are burnt.

## Salvador bonus

San Salvador (AP) - President Duarte of El Salvador announced pay increases and bonuses for 100,000 government workers, but four unions said on Saturday they would not end their 16-day-old work stoppage.

## Shuttle delay

Cape Canaveral, Florida (AP) - The launch of space shuttle Atlantis on its second mission has been delayed 24 hours until Wednesday night, because of an engine hydraulic system problem, NASA announced.

## Trains collide

Berlin (AP) - Three people were killed and 19 others were injured, some seriously, when two East German trains collided north of Berlin, the state-run ADN news agency reported.

## Florida deaths

Miami (Reuters) - Seven people died when two light planes crashed within hours of each other on Saturday in south Florida.

## Human rights gap blights Budapest get-together

From Richard Bassett, Budapest

Any of the optimism which emerged from last week's Geneva summit has yet to find its way to Budapest where the European Cultural Forum is expected to end today with neither West nor East agreeing on the contents of a concluding document.

Despite significant concessions by the West, which is reluctantly prepared to tone down but not entirely drop its demands for the document to include references to human rights, the Eastern delegates have remained opposed to any mention of human rights. They are also opposed to the roughly 200 proposals tabled during the six-week conference being published.

This intransigence on the side of the East has cast something of a shadow over the forum's closing festivities with Western delegates adamant that a concluding document without an acknowledgment of human rights would be "meaningless".

At a reception held in the Hungarian Parliament, the inexhaustible supplies of Pilsen beer and "bull's blood" wine could bring little cheer to the Hungarian hosts to the forum.

The probability that the forum may end without any concluding document is a traumatic possibility for the Hungarians, whose press has daily portrayed their country as a bridge between East and West. Extensive coverage was given to the recent visit by the Hungarian leader, Mr Janos Kadar, to England, one leading Hungarian paper observing that this was quite an achievement for Mrs Thatcher's Conservative Government, whose internal politics were "classically bourgeois".

But the British delegation to the forum, led by Mr Norman St John-Stevas, has clearly irritated the Hungarians by placing such consistent emphasis on the freedom of cultural personalities and human rights. Mr St John-Stevas's remarks time and again were singled out by the Hungarian press for criticism, the most common being that his comments had been irrelevant.

Most Nato delegations agree, however, that the British have been most effective in stressing the West's commitment to human rights and undermining the East's more suffocating procedural practices.

# There is one place a telex won't go to.

Telexes and in-trays just don't mix. A telex tends to go straight into the hands of the person it's intended for.

Perhaps it's the sudden arrival that gives telex an urgency which demands attention.

Or it could be because telex has a certain status - people send one when they really mean business. But it wouldn't lose that status by being used every day.

After all, a telex is faster than just about any other method of written communication you care to mention.

It gets to its destination in next to no time, whether it's half-way round the world or half-way down the road.

It's quick too because the language is so simple.

People expect to see the minimum number of words, so it takes little time to compose.

And when it's sent, an instant copy is produced so you don't have to worry about photocopies. So why don't more people use telex more often?

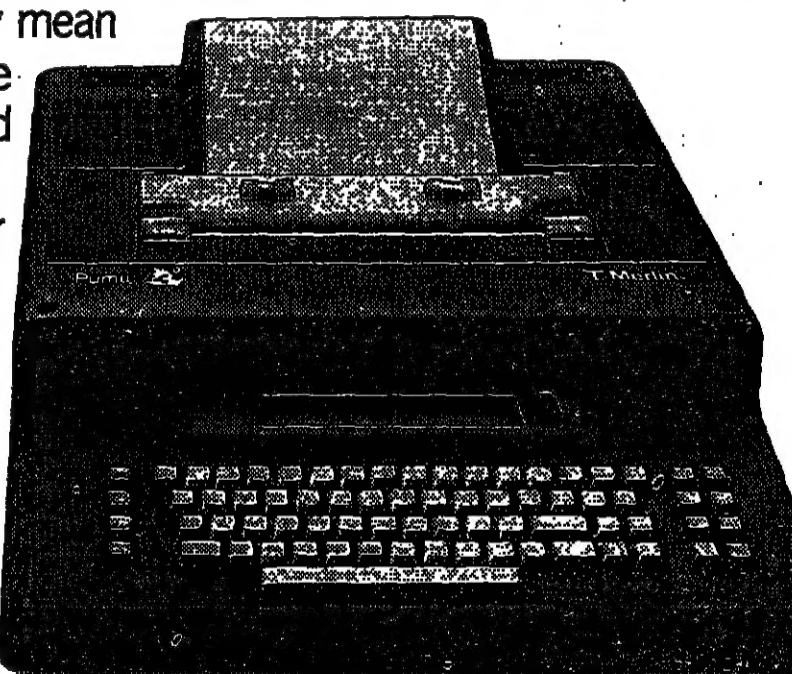
Could it be that a lot of them believe telex machines are big, noisy, ugly and antiquated?

If so, that couldn't be further from the truth.

The machines are now small, quiet, attractive and very modern.

Small enough to fit comfortably on a desk top (it's about as wide as a golf-ball typewriter), although you can have it on its own stand if you like.

Quiet enough to sit comfortably in your office. (It now registers a mere 48 decibels, compared to a quiet living-room's 40dB and a



typing-pool's 60dB.)

Attractive enough to look good on this page and in your office.

And modern enough to have its own repeat-dialling and word processing facilities, plus a memory for stored messages.

(You can also set it to send the same message to several addresses automatically.)

Some models even have a screen so the sender can see the whole text set out before it's despatched.

Anyone with international contacts will find another feature particularly useful.

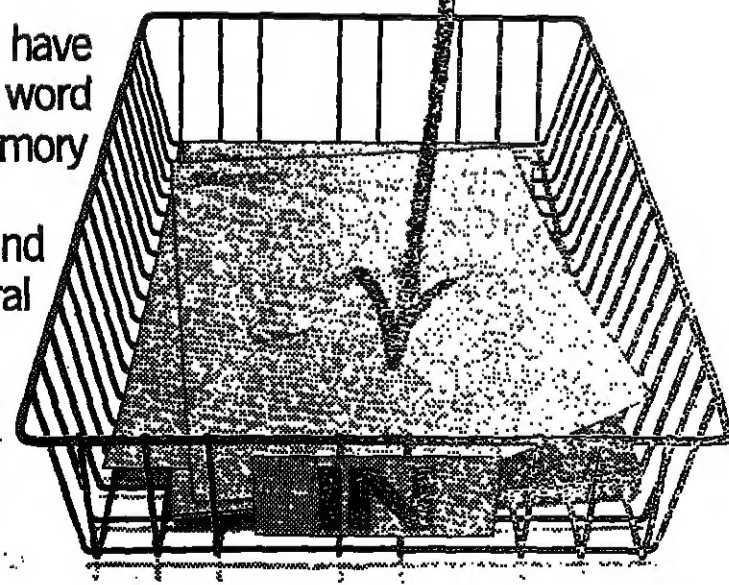
You can programme the machine to send a telex at any given time. So you won't have to wait until late to send information to Brisbane.

Or, for that matter, to Wagga Wagga. Yes, even businessmen in far-away Wagga Wagga are using telexes these days. (It's in New South Wales.)

Actually, there are now over one and a quarter million telex machines in two hundred countries worldwide, not including almost 100,000 in this country, which is an advantage in itself.

It's more than likely that whoever you want to do business with will have one. And it doesn't matter whether they're in South Wales old or New.

If you'd like us to send you a free information pack on the modern telex, coupon. Though just cut out the if you'd prefer to bypass our in-trays, you know what to do. Our telex number is printed below



Send the coupon for your free telex information pack to British Telecom Telex, FREEPOST BS 3333, Bristol BS1 4YP. Or Telex 449217 BT TAN G. Or phone, using the free Linkline 0800 400 466.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

I am particularly interested in: ☐ Machines ☐ Calls ☐ Lines ☒ As appropriate

British  
**TELECOM**

**Get on in business. Get on the telex.**





# Today, Mercury is the talk of the City.

# Tomorrow, it'll be the talk of the country.

The forthcoming Cable and Wireless share issue has certainly generated a lot of interest in the City.

Undoubtedly one of the reasons behind this is Cable and Wireless' ownership of Mercury Communications.

And it is the Government's intention that until 1990 Mercury should be the only company licensed to compete with British Telecom in the UK.

## Mercury's actions speak louder than words

Although Mercury has only been in existence since 1982, during that short time it has achieved a great deal.

The task of establishing a completely new, all digital telecommunications system linking major business centres throughout the UK, is already underway.

Our illustration shows the intended network, which is either already built or in the process of being built to meet user demand.

In London, Mercury is busy installing an extensive fibre-optic cable network beneath the city's streets.

Utilising London Transport's Underground system and, more ingeniously, using 150 miles of subterranean conduit laid in the last century to provide hydraulic power for the city's lifts and bridges.

## We can't build for the future with yesterday's technology

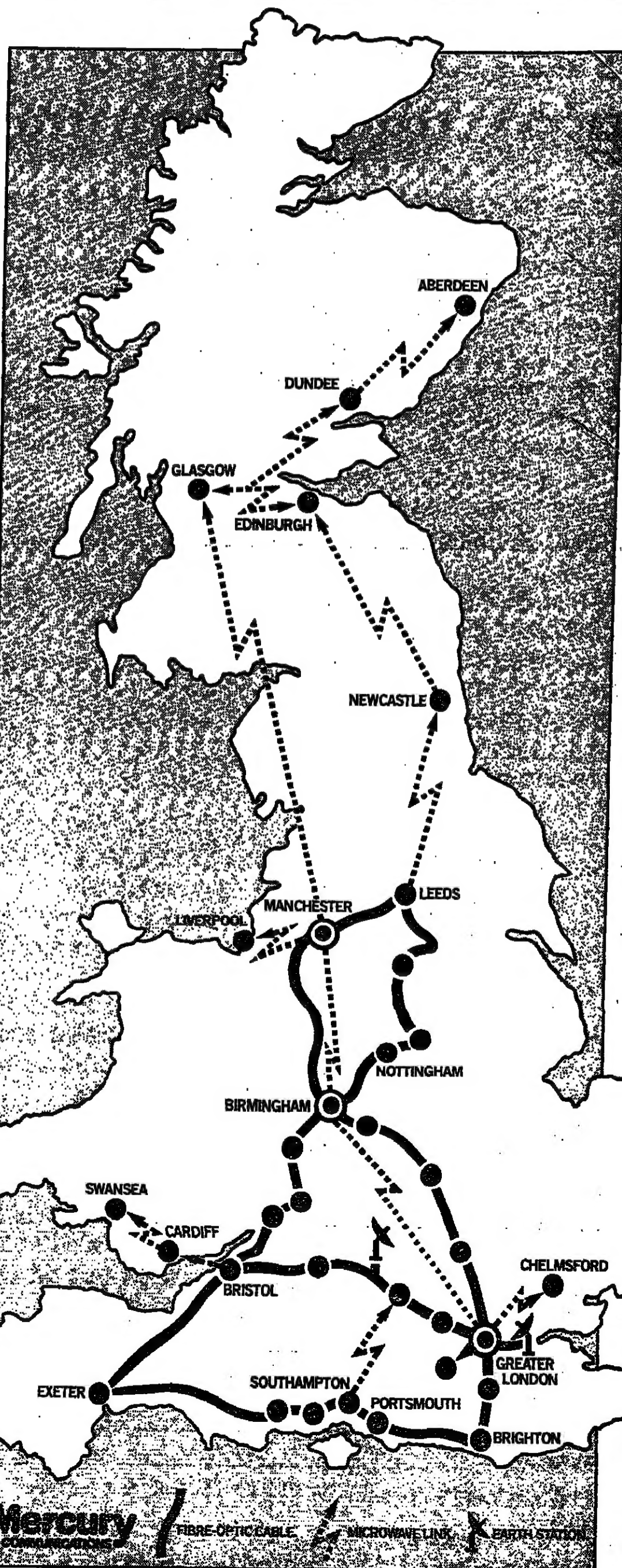
Apart from the imaginative use of some antique pipework under London, all Mercury's installations employ the very latest technological developments.

And, as a matter of company policy, will continue to do so.

The entire cable network is built around the most advanced fibre-optics available.

Their capacity is virtually unlimited. Whether they're carrying high speed computer data, audio or visual communications.

They could, for instance, transmit the complete works of Charles Dickens, all thirty-five volumes of it, in a few zips of light. Or allow thousands of conversations to be conducted simultaneously,



with a clarity unheard of on old-fashioned telephone lines.

As you'd expect, the entire network is to be switched and monitored by computer.

And it communicates with America and the Far East via two satellite earth stations, one in Oxfordshire and one in London, plus of course, Cable and Wireless' existing global network.

## Keeping the customers satisfied

Mercury has already built up an impressive list of clients.

They include The Stock Exchange which has its own satellite link to New York, stock-brokers Phillips and Drew, Midland Bank and the Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School to name but a few.

And according to a recent independent survey, Mercury's clients are more than satisfied with the expertise and resourcefulness of the company.

Not to mention the quality of the services.

## Mercury as an investment

Mercury alone has a lot to recommend it. But Mercury is not alone.

It's a part of one of the world's leading international telecommunications groups.

Because of this, you can't invest directly in Mercury.

Nevertheless, you'll have the opportunity to invest in it through Cable and Wireless, when the Government offer their final share-holding in the company.

Fill in the coupon and we will forward details about Cable and Wireless, Mercury and the forthcoming offer.

To: Cable and Wireless plc, PO Box 820, London SE8 5JH. Please send me further information about Cable and Wireless plc.

Mr/Mrs/Miss

Address

Postcode



Cable and  
Wireless.



## Peking doubts on reforms send a chill through Hong Kong

From David Bozaris, Hong Kong

Hong Kong officials and public figures are worried about the implications of remarks made by China's chief political representative in the colony, apparently critical of moves towards democratization of the local government.

Both the Foreign Office and Sir Edward Youde, the Governor, have defended the new electoral system being developed here to lay the groundwork for full internal autonomy after sovereignty over Hong Kong reverts to China in 1997.

Businessmen and lawyers, among others, are concerned about the statement made last week by Mr Xu Jiatun, head of the local New China News Agency branch, who is widely regarded as the chief representative of the Chinese Government.

Mr Xu told a press conference, to which only representatives of the local media were invited, that the new electoral system being developed by the Hong Kong Government might present "a very significant problem", because it might be in conflict with the Basic Law or constitution being drawn up for the territory in Peking.

"It will be a misfortune for Hong Kong, China and Britain if they create their own systems in different ways," he added.

The local stock market, which has been surprising brokers with its lively performance of late, fell sharply in response to these remarks.

However, some political advisers believe that Mr Xu's remarks may have been intended as a negotiating gambit aimed at affecting the atmosphere of the talks being held in

Peking this week by the Anglo-Chinese joint liaison group, a body set up to monitor the implementation of the treaty on the future of Hong Kong.

Others think the Chinese official was warning the British-dominated government not to press ahead too quickly with electoral reform and the creation of democratic institutions which do not exist in the People's Republic of China. It could be embarrassing for Peking to resume sovereignty over a former colony which was patently more democratic, as well as more prosperous, than the motherland.

The 1984 agreement stipulates that Hong Kong shall be ruled by Hong Kong people after 1997, and the deliberations of the Basic Law Drafting Committee in Peking will be supplemented by a larger consultative committee, whose membership is about to be announced here. Its role will be to advise the Peking committee about local feelings and views.

The consultative committee is expected to include a few expatriates, but the drafting committee is a Chinese-only affair. The legislation under which Hong Kong will become a "special administrative region" of the People's Republic is considered to be a matter for China and China alone.

Elections were held here recently in "functional constituencies" - classified by professions and walks of life - for some of the members of the new Legislative Council. But the franchise represented only about 1 per cent of the population.

## UN official faces clash on refugees to Europe

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

A clash is likely in Stockholm today at a meeting, shrouded in secrecy, between Mr Poul Hartling, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and representatives of seven European nations, including Britain.

Diplomats from Britain, Germany, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark and The Netherlands will press at the one-day meeting for greater efforts by the UN to stem the flow of refugees to Europe from the Middle East, Africa and the Indian sub-continent.

Mr Hartling, on the other hand, will call for less restrictions on refugees seeking asylum and for more humane treatment of them by police at airports and ports.

The Stockholm meeting, a follow-up to a similar meeting in Geneva in May, was described by Mr Soren Jensen Petersen, Mr Hartling's representative in Stockholm, as "very private".

Last year 103,000 refugees sought asylum in Europe, most of them from Sri Lanka and Iran. This year's figure could reach 150,000, according to Mr Hartling's office in Geneva.

Asylum seekers 1984	% granted	Main groups
W Germany	85,000 35	Tamils, Iranis, Turks
France	10,000 55	Iranis, Turks, Chinese, Iraqis
Sweden	12,000 50-60	Tamils, Iranis, Turks, Chinese, Iraqis
Switzerland	7,500 34	Tamils, Iranis, Turks, Chinese, Iraqis
Denmark	4,300 Not available	
UK	3,300 Not available	
Netherlands	2,600 42	Tamils

## Grim price of Ceausescu's failure

East Europe faces another hard winter that will spawn serious political and economic problems. Failures in central planning, cutbacks in Soviet oil deliveries and ageing transport systems have all made the crisis worse. In the first of three articles, ROGER BOYES, East Europe Correspondent, describes the situation in Romania.

There are those in Bucharest who say that this winter will be crucial for the survival of the Ceausescu regime. The President is quite evidently ill, the new Kremlin leadership is sceptical of his brand of narcissistic communism, and the Romanians are being pushed to the limits of their endurance.

Wishful thinking of course. Romania is still largely a peasant or supplanting peasant society with no recent history of political participation or resistance. The exception is the military, which has been purged and which is being monitored by one of the few talented members of the Ceausescu family, the Deputy Defence Minister, and the miners who have been autonomous since the nationalization of the power sector, a desperate

measure for desperate conditions. Last year, was a hard winter. Memories are still fresh of the draconian energy-saving regulations which will be reapplied this year: one low-wattage light bulb per room, radiators switched off, refrigerators too (presumably because ice-boxes), street lighting blacked out. It was, such is the popular anecdote of diplomats, colder inside than outside.

But the harshness of the winter was not just meteorologically determined; the fact is

that every winter will be hard because the problems result from a breakdown in the central planning mechanisms and a failure in President Ceausescu's strategy of long-term growth.

Romania has some of the oldest oil fields in the world, but since the mid-1970s production has been dropping: from 14.7 million tonnes in 1976 to 11.5 million tonnes last year.

Yet the whole of Romania's economy is predicated on cheap energy. The refinery capacity has been doubled over the past decade to 30 million tonnes, so oil has to be imported - mainly from Opec, since Romania has only limited access to Soviet oil - simply to keep the petrochemical industry working.

Heavy industry - ship and aircraft building, machine tools, engineering goods - is energy hungry.

A small amount of oil is now imported from the Soviet Union, not for hard currency but for transferable roubles, the



Communist Youth League volunteers march to the Rovinari mines to boost output.

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service. The coal that is arriving is full of dirt and rock: the miners struggling to keep up with their norms are loading everything into the trucks. The militarization of the power stations is therefore a measure of last resort.

Punishments, for not fulfilling targets, not carrying out repairs, take the form of docking half a month's wages. That does not work: no foreman, even in a relatively placid political environment, can increase output like this.

In the summer the authorities increased financial incentives for energy-sector workers. But that has not worked either because the targets border on science fiction.

So the Army has moved in. Militarization means that workers are treated like soldiers: to skip work for a day is to be absent without leave, to miss a week is to desert. The atmosphere is tense, the weather forecast bleak.

Tomorrow: Bulgaria

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Tomorrow: Bulgaria

## Figurehead chosen to succeed Khomeini

By Hazzir Teimourian

It was announced in Iran at the weekend that the country's Assembly of Experts, a constitutional body of Shia Muslim theologians, had elected the future successor to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. He is Ayatollah Hosain Ali Montazeri, a former militant supporter of Ayatollah Khomeini.

The announcement by the state news agency Irna gave rise to speculation that Ayatollah Khomeini, aged 83, might have died or be seriously ill. The speculation continues despite an announcement by the government that he was in good health. He has been suffering from a heart condition for a number of years and his voice has not been broadcast for some two weeks.

The timing of the election of Ayatollah Montazeri is significant. It comes after a fierce feud between President Ali Khamenei, on the one hand, and the Parliament Speaker, Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani, and the Prime Minister, Mr Hosain Mousavi, on the other. Ayatollah Khomeini might have felt that, if the question of his succession were not settled now, the continuity of his regime could be endangered after his death.

An outspoken MP, Mr Fakhreddin Hejazi, is reported to have said that Tehran would resemble Beirut if the future leader were not elected before the death of Ayatollah Khomeini. The election is believed to be the country's last.

"Grand" ayatollahs, of whom there are about half a dozen, Ayatollah Montazeri, who is in his early sixties, in junior to them in theological achievement and is generally seen to be naive and to lack intelligence.

It is believed in Tehran that Ayatollah Montazeri will never be more than a figurehead and that effective power will continue to rest in the hands of Speaker Rafsanjani and President Khamenei, who will manipulate him till one establishes his political supremacy and is also old enough to lay claim to the spiritual mantle of Ayatollah Khomeini.

## Kharg hit again

Baghdad (Reuters) - Iraqi planes raided Iran's main oil export terminal at Kharg Island yesterday and also attacked a "large naval target" - a term applied to oil tankers - in the Gulf, a Baghdad military spokesman said.

## Malaysian Chinese close ranks round millionaire

From Paul Routledge, Singapore

Malaysia moved substantially closer to an early general election yesterday when its main Chinese political party settled a long-running leadership conflict.

Delegates at a special conference of the Malaysian Chinese Association in Kuala Lumpur voted overwhelmingly to oust their acting president, Dr Neo Yee Pan, in favour of a self-made millionaire, Mr Tan Koon Swan.

Mr Tan's capture of the MCA leadership should end three months in the political wilderness for the main government coalition partner of the United Malays National Organisation, and free Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Muhammad, the Prime Minister, to call a general election early next year.

Dr Mahathir, who is touring China in search of an improved trading relationship, will now have to reintegrate the MCA into the ruling alliance.

The two parties will have to

determine how to rebuild their coalition at a time of increasing industrial and social unrest.

The international tin crisis, which could halve the price of metal to £4,000 a tonne, might slash the output of Malaysia's key foreign currency earner by 75 per cent and cut the number of mining firms from 480 to 22, producers said at the weekend.

This warning comes as Malaysia is feeling the impact of Islamic fundamentalism more sharply than for many years.

Mr Tan, who won more than

70 per cent of the MCA votes, entered politics only in 1977. In 1982 he scored an impressive victory over a rival Chinese candidate to pick up a Kuala Lumpur constituency, and was subsequently seen as a possible party leader.

His supporters consistently argued that the MCA had become ossified politically through inactivity at branch level, which has led to more than 100,000 "ghost members" being used to ensure the continued leadership of Dr Neo.

## Khartoum says hunger strike by 200 is over

Khartoum (Reuters) - More than 200 detainees, held since September over an alleged coup attempt, have abandoned the hunger strike they began last Wednesday in Kober jail, north Khartoum, the official Sudan news agency Suna said.

The prisoners refused food in protest at their long detention without trial.

Seven people, including three policemen, were injured on Sunday and 22 arrested.

## Journalists attack Greek curbs on information

The Greek Government's decision to abolish daily press briefings and restrict the flow of official information virtually to press releases has been deplored by opposition parties and the journalists' union in Athens as an authoritarian attempt to impose a news blackout.

The union representing journalists on Athens daily newspapers said that it would resist attempts to restrict the freedom of the press.

It is now clear that the Government decided to stop question-and-answer briefings by its chief spokesman largely because verbatim publication of transcripts exposed too many contradictions in government policies.

The move followed the resignation of Mr Costas Laliotis, the press under-secretary after the Government abandoned liberalization of news bulletins on state television,

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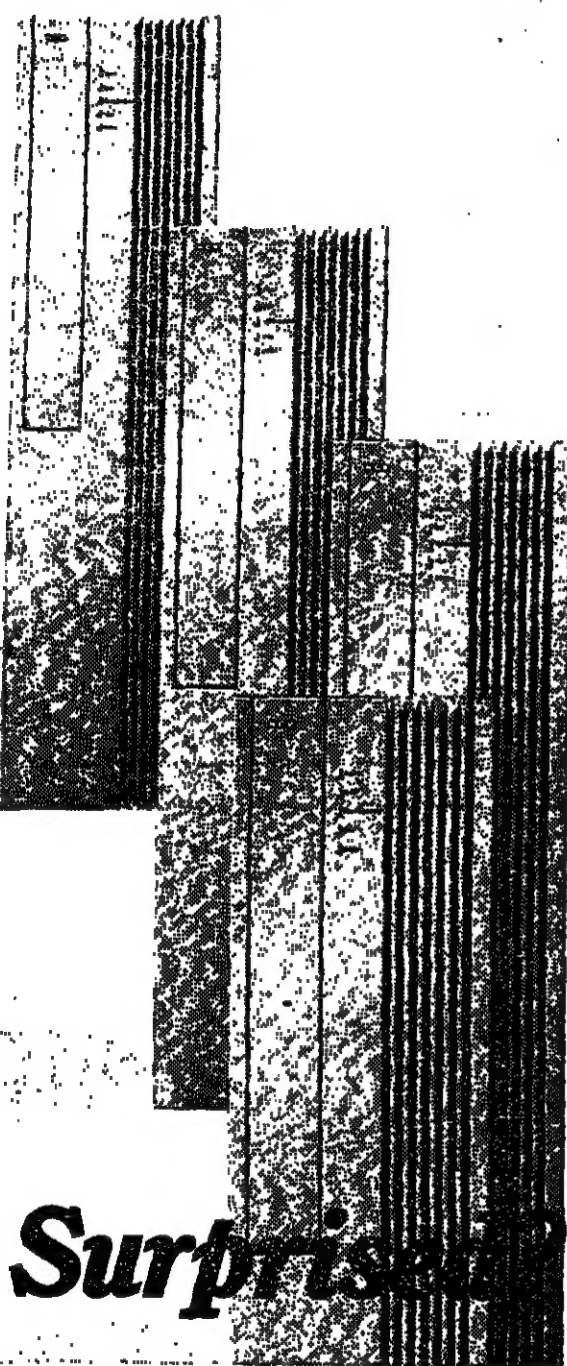
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## After 91 years, buffalo killers hit trail again

From Christopher Thomas  
Washington

For the first time in nearly a century the American buffalo is to be hunted and slaughtered, although it may be something of an overstatement to say "hunted": the creature is about as wild and threatening as a domestic cow.

About a century ago the buffalo was virtually extinct. Just 25 were left in the newly created Yellowstone National Park, which straddles Montana, Idaho and Wyoming - the sad remains of millions that wan-

dered the western plains in vast herds before being killed off by Indians and, especially, the white man.

Today, the 2,000-head Yellowstone herd - the biggest in North America - is infected with brucellosis, causing bovine to abort their young. There are fears that farmers' livestock near the huge park will be infected. And so, with a deep sense of remorse, Montana has decided to let hunters shoot buffalo that stray across the borders.

The decision has upset many

people. Even farmers whose livestock is threatened are unhappy. Ed Francis, who runs a ranch in Montana where most wandering bison end up, said his cattle were more defensive than buffalo: "They'd just stand there and die. It wouldn't be a sport."

Hunting buffalo in Yellowstone has been illegal since 1894. The park service ratched them from 1902 until the 1950s, when it was clear that extinction was no longer a danger. The first legal hunt of wild buffalo in 91 years begins on December 1,

when 100 hunters selected in a lottery will be allowed to shoot one errant bison each.

A game warden will supervise each kill. Each hunter will have precisely 36 hours to bag his animal. The buffalo make good eating, although brucellosis can be passed on to humans if the meat is not cooked well enough. The hides make fine leather.

But why hunt them? Why make a sport of it? Why not leave it to wildlife professionals? Such questions from opponents of the hunt seem tinged with an ever-present

shame at the wanton destruction of the creature not so very long ago.

Montana has tried alternatives, driving them back into the park with helicopters and chasing them with trucks. But they continue to stray.

Government officials say it is better to kill wandering buffalo than to try eradicating the disease, which they believe may be a natural regulator of the herd's size. The National Park Service, as a matter of policy, goes out of its way to leave nature to its devices at Yellowstone.

## Mandela's return to prison fails to quash hopes for release

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Mrs Winnie Mandela plans to fly to Cape Town tomorrow to see her husband, Mr Nelson Mandela, who has been taken from hospital back to Pollsmoor prison.

His return to prison on Saturday has quashed reports that he is about to be freed, at least for the time being. Speculation persists, however, that serious negotiations are under way which could lead to freedom for the African National Congress leader.

It was fuelled by the movements of Mrs Mandela. On Saturday she travelled to Brandfort, the Orange Free State township to which she was banished eight years ago, for the funeral of a victim of the unrest. Immediately afterwards she returned to Soweto, outside Johannesburg, in defiance of police orders to stay in Brandfort.

She has disclosed that before her husband saw his lawyers on Friday at the Volks hospital in Cape Town, where he underwent prostate surgery, he had a two-hour meeting with Brigadier Fred Muro, the officer commanding Pollsmoor prison.

It is suggested that the brigadier was acting as a government emissary.

Mr Mandela told his wife that he needed to see his lawyers urgently about "certain matters" discussed with the brigadier, which he did not disclose.

The Government's official attitude that it will not consider releasing Mr Mandela until he renounces violence remains unchanged. It is suggested, however, that it might be seeking a way to release him on humanitarian grounds because of his age - 67 - the fact that he has spent 23 years in prison, and his serious operation.

It would also give credibility to "moderate" black leaders, such as Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, who have called for his unconditional release.

Another possibility is that he will be freed before next year's visit by the Commonwealth delegation of "eminent persons" to demonstrate that the Government is capable of acting independently and not because of foreign pressure.

Spectrum, page 10

## Colombia declares an economic emergency

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

Colombia yesterday announced a national economic emergency in the wake of the volcano disaster and the bloody steps of the Palace of Justice. It is believed that 25,000 were killed in central Colombia after the Nevado del Ruiz volcano melted ice and snow on its peak and set off flash-floods and mud avalanches.

Four looters, wearing Red Cross armbands, were shot dead by troops in the disaster zone at the weekend as the authorities issued a warning that a big eruption of the volcano was possible, even probable, in the next few days.

The first devastating eruption occurred on November 13, just a week after the Palace of Justice was taken over by members of the April 19 Movement (M19). Government troops ended the siege by storming the building and 95 people were killed.

Under the economic emergency, a national reconstruction fund will be created to co-ordinate the reconstruction of Armero, the small town in the Tolima department which suffered the greatest loss of life in the disaster, and other areas of the Tolima and Caldas departments which were devastated.

The fund will also oversee reconstruction of the Palace of Justice, gutted in the siege.

The Government also announced the setting up of a department for the protection of

the jurisdictional branch, which will be responsible for the "lives, honour, and property" of counsellors of state, Supreme Court judges, regional and municipal judges, and indeed all staff in the justice system nationwide.

The jurisdictional branch has been bitterly critical of the Government for failing to secure a peaceful end to the siege by refusing to negotiate with the M19 terrorists. Eleven Supreme Court judges, held hostage by M19, were killed.

Both the Government and the jurisdictional branch have charged that the siege was incited by Colombia's cocaine and marijuana mafia to sabotage a Colombian-United States extradition treaty designed to bring international drug racketeers to justice.

The Supreme Court judges who died were responsible for processing extraditions and received regular telephone death threats at their offices and homes. Some were sent funeral wreaths.

The Government has since claimed to have uncovered evidence that the M19 promised M19 delivery of a big arms shipment from Panama in return for the Palace of Justice siege, during which 80 per cent of its archives, including documents related to future extraditions, were destroyed.

Emergency camps are being maintained by the armed forces

## Minister snubs meeting on Israeli budget

From Ian Murray  
Jerusalem

The Israeli Cabinet yesterday began a divisive debate on how to cut the national budget by \$600 million next year - without the minister who drew up the cost-saving strategy.

The Finance Minister, Mr Yitzhak Mordechai, a Likud member, boycotted the meeting because, he said, the Labour Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, had refused to dismiss the Labour Health Minister, Mr Mordechai Gur.

Mr Mordechai wants to cut \$30 million (£34 million) from health spending. Because of this Mr Gur is said to have told a private meeting that the Finance Minister was "a maniac out to destroy the health service". Mr Mordechai thinks the insult should be punished.

Mr Peres tried to ignore the quarrel at the Cabinet meeting and began discussions on the suggested cuts, which also include \$180 million on defence, \$105 million on subsidies for basic commodities, \$90 million on unemployment benefits, and \$39 million from education.

Mr Mordechai insists that government spending must be pruned to allow income tax cuts, which would increase real incomes without the need for inflationary pay rises.

## Aids spreading in Africa say medical experts

Brussels (AFP) - Central Africa has been hit by an AIDS epidemic that has been transmitted sexually by both women and men, specialists said here.

Official statistics on the scope of the disease, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, do not exist as African governments, apparently fearing racist reactions in the West and panic among their own populations, have not as yet provided data to the World Health Organisation.

But figures put forward by Belgian, French, African and US medical researchers are alarming, suggesting that between six and 10 per cent of the population of Zaire, Congo, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia could be carriers of the AIDS virus. The epidemic appears to be spreading

## Post-Mintoff Malta turns moderate

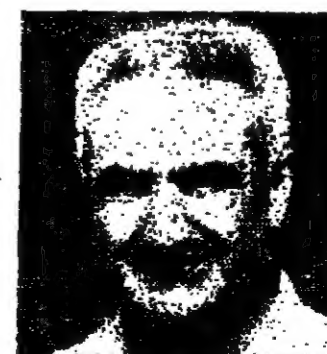
By Our Foreign Staff

Malta's socialist government supports the Palestinian struggle and has military agreements with North Korea and Libya.

But under Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, a softly-spoken lawyer who took over as Prime Minister from Mr Dom Mintoff in December last year, the country's foreign policy has enjoyed a dose of moderation.

Malta has re-established links with the European community and seeks better relations with Britain and the United States. These progressively worsened during Mintoff's 13-year premiership as Malta developed a strong accord with north African states and entered into intimate relations with Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan dictator.

Following a policy of neutrality and non-alignment, Malta also built strong ties with Moscow, eastern Europe and



Dr Bonnici: Dispute with Britain settled

North Korea both in economic and military fields.

Mintoff, who held that Malta should be a bridge between Europe and Africa, leaving the Mediterranean in between as a sea of peace from which the super powers should withdraw, accused the Council of Europe

of interfering in the island's affairs and claimed that Malta was not given the financial aid it deserved by the European economic community.

The Maltese government also quarrelled with Britain over the issue of wartime wrecks and bombs in its harbour and withdrew from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. But since Dr Bonnici's nomination as Mintoff's successor relations have taken a turn for the better.

The dispute with Britain was settled after Britain financed the clearing of Malta's Grand Harbour while the senior deputy prime minister Dr Joseph Cassar attended the recent Commonwealth meeting for heads of governments at Nassau. A financial protocol for aid to Malta was also initiated.

But the political and constitutional situation in Malta remains unstable

## Parent-power puts Warsaw officialdom to flight

From Roger Boyes  
Warsaw

"Who is the first person in your family to bring up political subjects?"

The children, aged 11, had to give their full names and addresses, and the sociologists administering the poll were explicit: "Do not tell your parents."

But word got out, causing a rare display of parent-power protest in a communist state.

First, the headmistress of the school, in the Zolibz district of Warsaw, was peppered with angry telephone calls, some anonymous. Then a delegation marched to the school and demanded a meeting with the sociologists.

The researchers tried to explain that they were conducting a serious study of adolescence in co-operation with a

West Berlin Institute. The names and addresses were necessary if the sample group was to be tracked through the next six years.

But the parents were not convinced. "How dare you make an informer out of my child?" one angry father shouted. A mother objected to a question about whether the children were hedges - a covert

## Ex-CLA man held as spy for China

From Christopher Thomas  
Washington

A retired analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency has been arrested and accused of spying for China for more than 30 years, bringing to at least nine the number of current and former CIA employees charged with espionage this year.

Mr Larry Wu-Tai Chin, aged 63, was said by the FBI to have spied for China since 1952 and to have continued giving the Chinese documents after his retirement in 1981 after nearly 30 years with the agency.

In 1952 he allegedly provided the Chinese intelligence service with the "location of Chinese prisoners of war in Korea and information that the American and Korean intelligence services were seeking from the Chinese POWs in the Korean War."

The State Department said it was concerned and shocked, and that it had protested formally to the Chinese Government. The Chinese Embassy in Washington denied that Chinese officials had any involvement with Mr Chin.

According to the affidavit, Mr Chin worked for several years in an arm of the CIA that monitors and analyses foreign news broadcasts. This would not have exposed him to information of much use to China, but the job had security clearance - giving access to classified documents.

In the Korean War Mr Chin interviewed Chinese prisoners of war in Korea and was paid by China for information, according to the affidavit. He allegedly travelled to Peking in 1982 and received \$50,000.

The Pentagon has started a damage assessment of an uncompleted spy case involving Jonathan Pollard, aged 31, an employee of the Navy's investigative Service, charged with giving secret documents to a foreign government after apparently seeking refuge in the Israeli Embassy.

The case widened at the weekend with the arrest of Mr Pollard's wife, Anne Pollard-Pollard, aged 25, who was charged with "unauthorized possession of classified documents relating to the national defence of the United States."

## Poll test in Fraga's stronghold

From Harry Debeling  
Madrid

Leaders of Spain's main political parties keenly watched regional elections in Galicia yesterday which were expected to be a weather-vane for the next general elections, despite the fact that the outcome was a foregone conclusion.

The Popular Coalition (CP) led by the Conservative MP, Señor Manuel Fraga, a former Franco minister and Ambassador to London, was expected to win by a wide margin. Whether the CP actually got a majority of all votes cast was considered of vital significance both for Señor Fraga's future and that of his coalition.

The Socialists, in power in Madrid, were anxious to increase their share of the vote in Galicia, as many observers felt that any loss of support in the north-west region would probably reflect disenchantment among Socialist voters elsewhere in Spain.

The main parties were concerned that the traditionally high abstention rate in Galicia, almost 50 per cent in the 1982 general election, might be even higher yesterday, signalling voter apathy.

Any loss of support for Señor Fraga's coalition, which has considered Galicia its stronghold since its unexpected 1981 victory over the Centre Democratic Union, then in power in Madrid, would be interpreted as a sign of decreased confidence in Señor Fraga himself as a national opposition leader.

Señor Adolfo Suárez, the former Prime Minister, also views Galicia as an important battleground. Trying to make his political comeback nearly five years after he resigned as Prime Minister, Señor Suárez campaigned on behalf of his party, the Socialist Democratic Centre, in the hope of winning just one of the 71 seats in the regional parliament.

The election was crucial for Galician nationalists as well. To a great extent their political future depends on the number of seats they could get in a region where - unlike in Catalonia and the Basque country - the regional language is often considered by residents to be a handicap rather than an advantage.



Ex-CIA  
man held  
as spy for  
China

From Christopher Thomas  
Washington

Poll test in  
Fraga's  
stronghold

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## MONDAY PAGE

هكنا من النحل

A scheme that enables sixth formers to shadow executives is being expanded. How does it work?



Learning the ropes: Roberta Burgess (right) with her mentor Danielle Barr, head of advertising for Nat West; and talking business at J. Walter Thompson

## Follow the leader

Roberta Burgess, a 17-year-old sixth former from All Hallows School, Suffolk, spent last week in the shadow of Danielle Barr, 45-year-old head of advertising for Nat West bank. Roberta is a small, pale, determined girl who intends to get to the top in management. Danielle is a tall, dark, determined woman who has.

They were taking part in a pilot "work shadowing" scheme started in the summer by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Institute of Directors. It aims to attract bright students to industry by giving them a peek at its higher echelons.

For a few hours last week, I shadowed Roberta, shadowing Danielle. For a time, I shadowed a BBC crew shadowing Roberta shadowing Danielle. It wasn't easy.

"It's very confusing," Roberta told Linda Lewis from the BBC. "But it's very interesting and very exciting." She looked astonishingly composed.

Danielle, also looking astonishingly composed, told the viewers: "It's not easy for anyone to get to the top. Women don't get to the top because they don't aspire high enough."

## The point is to give bright youngsters role models in management

At an Institute of Directors conference today called Working Women - Paths to Power, Mr John Butcher, under-secretary at the Department of Industry, will announce an extension of the work shadowing scheme. Next year at least 2,500 sixth formers should get the chance to see how industry works. The point of the scheme is to give bright youngsters a

role model to attract them to careers in management.

Danielle was born in Israel and came to England in 1961 to learn about advertising. She worked at several agencies before getting her first "real break" in 1967 when she joined Edda Gibbs as brand manager on hair dyes. She then moved on to toiletries. In 1976 she became a marketing manager, the first woman senior manager in a Unilever company. In 1980 she joined Geers Gross as board director and in 1983 she took her current job, where she found fame by persuading a bank to use a punk rock commercial.

"I am just a 'bloody foreigner' who came here 24 years ago without the language and without any qualifications that were recognized here. I didn't do it like the high fliers. I didn't come up through the system so I allowed myself time. I didn't do what a lot of women do which is to say 'I'll work until... I planned my career as a man might do'."

Because she is experienced in both advertising and marketing Danielle is a desirable commodity. "I honestly haven't looked for a job since 1967."

Roberta was alerted to the scheme by her primary role model, her mother, a teacher and "somewhat of a feminist" who had read about it in *Working Woman* magazine. It struck her as being a good opportunity and something for Roberta to say she had done when she applies for jobs.

When Roberta finishes her English, French and Spanish A-levels she wants to do a degree in business studies. Beyond that she is open to

offers. After a few days with Danielle she was beginning to see the attractions of a career in advertising.

We spent a typical morning at Nat West, once the BBC had left, with a design consultant from Minale Tattersfield and later with two account executives from J. Walter Thompson. Danielle and the design consultant talked about promotional CDs. "You know CDs," she said to me eventually. "Colour display cards."

"Do you have any questions, Roberta?" Danielle asked when the meeting was over. "No," replied Roberta. "Sorry." She hadn't opened her mouth during the meeting, except to bite her nails.

When Danielle was out of the room I asked Roberta how much she had understood. "I got the gist," she said. "I suppose I could ask questions, but I feel perhaps I'm not in a position to ask."

There weren't many questions about that morning's post either, apart from "Is it always so boring?" Danielle went through it between meetings, showing and explaining it all to Roberta. It was mainly circulars and letters of thanks for an evening she had organized as President of the Women's Advertising Club of London. Roberta wisely accepted them without comment.

Before the J. Walter Thompson meeting, Danielle provided some background information. They were planning a campaign to advertise Saturday opening. It had to explain the difference in style between weekdays and Saturdays - Saturday is

more informal - without suggesting one was better than the other.

The pair from JWT presented their strategy confidently. A breezy chap called David introduced it and a breezy woman called Sandy explained it with lots of vivid sound effects all of which came out of her own mouth. I was impressed. Danielle was not. "I have a problem with this," she said. "I don't feel there's any warmth. Too much high tech, not enough high touch."

## There are not many women at the top, but give it five years

David and Sandy didn't see the problem. Anyway, that was just something the bank would have to live with, they suggested. It was a good ploy; first deny there is a problem, then insist there is no way around it.

"Well," said Danielle, "like the good client I am I never try to tell the agency how to run a campaign."

She then offered us a drink from a cocktail cabinet containing enough booze to sink a campaign launch. Roberta said she would have nothing, thank you, but the account executives took wine and, having agreed to go away for a rethink, teased Danielle about wanting her cake and eating it.

A few days later Roberta reflected that the most admirable thing about Danielle Barr is the happy medium she strikes between being reasonable

and getting her own way. "You can't help liking her," she said. "She was very good to me, not at all patronizing. She is someone who gets on with it and I admire that."

Advertising is probably a more glamorous field than most shadows will find themselves in and is decidedly more accommodating to women. Mid-management, according to the JWT executives, is very female. And, although there are not very many women at the top yet because the generation who set out to get there are only just arriving, give it five years.

Roberta has the determination to make it. "I look at my life," she says, "and I see a career at the centre of it. I would like to have a husband and babies but they will have to fit in around my job. Nothing will stop me doing what I want to do. I've made my mind up about that."

A week with Danielle Barr has reinforced her ambition. Danielle brought up a stepson who is now 26 and she has a 14-year-old daughter at boarding school. "Having babies doesn't hold women back. You work through having babies. You just allow for the expense. You have to be prepared for about five years to work just to pay someone to look after your children."

She admits, however, that it's impossible to do without a supportive husband. She is now divorced but her husband was very helpful. "You can't spend the emotional energy fighting the issue and working," she says. Husbands aside, she is optimistic about the future of women in management. "Aim high," she advises. And Roberta undoubtedly will.

Barbara Toner

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## Memories made of egg mayonnaise

"Half your mind is always in the fridge", a man famous for his perspicacity and sound judgement said accusingly yesterday. At the time I was half-way through a box of Godiva chocolates and already planning the supper menu. There are not many moments in the day when I am not thinking of food.

I blame this on a very nice former husband of mine who, early in our courtship, told me that he had once taken a girl to dinner at the Courtyard Hotel and the wretched woman had eaten nothing but an omelette. Since he had never darkened this picky eater's doorstep again, I looked upon this as a sign that a dainty nibbler was the last thing he wanted and splashed about happily in the *à la carte*.

When I met his mother, I discovered a woman who could have got a Ph.D. in food fixation. By making an early start to the day she managed to serve five meals during it: breakfast, lunch, tea, dinner (at 6pm), then - at 10pm - a three-tiered trolley of tea and cakes.

Women are not supposed to be as interested in eating as I am. When they lunch together, they are expected to favour a slice of cardboard-based quiche and a spritzer in a wine-bar rather than what is regarded as a man-sized meal.

One of the many delights of New York is that women set out for restaurants to lunch with other women, the whole bunch of them jangling with gold bracelets, hair gliding with costly highlights and ready to do justice to a proper meal, rather than "ladies' food". True liberation may come when any woman who can afford it feels perfectly justified in ordering a three-course lunch when there isn't a male companion in sight.

But the concept that women like food to toy with rather than chew on dies hard. Even when men of sound appetite take me to restaurants where the food decently covers the entire plate, they seem anxious that I should not suffer from surfeit. They wear me that since I may wish to sample the excellent cheese-board, it may be sensible not to fill up on the fish soup. I think they would like me to give evidence of my fragile femininity by pushing the vegetables around my plate while declaring that I couldn't manage one more mouthful.



PENNY PERRICK

They hope in vain. Not only is half my mind always in the fridge but three-quarters of my memory is in my taste buds. I can remember, as though it were yesterday, the excellent granary roll, filled with egg mayonnaise, which I turned soggy with tears after a lover's tiff. But who the lover was and what we had come to blows about, I cannot for the life of me recall.

My detestation of someone who made me thoroughly unhappy is compounded by memories of food that I loathed and he adored: junkets, flour-based sauces, lamb overpowered by garlic. Luckily, I have forgotten every other instance of his iniquity. Even more luckily, heartbreak, in my case, is dispelled instantly and forever as soon as someone puts a menu in my hand. Those who keep their minds in the fridge are least likely to put their heads in the oven.

Arrigo "Harry" Cipriani thinks that he may be the only baby to have been named after a bar: the watering-hole in question being the famous Harry's Bar in Venice, which Arrigo's father, Giuseppe Cipriani, founded in 1931 with an American Partner, Harry Pickering. How lucky for the infant Arrigo that the bar wasn't called The Pig and Whistle.

On the whole, it seems safer to name a baby after a place rather than a person. It is possible that we are about to witness a generation of baby girls all called Diana. So let us hope that no bad fairy at their christening ensures that they grow up, short, dark and dumpy instead of the willowy, princess-like creature that their mothers and fathers have in mind.

## Yoga bends back the years

Mary Stewart took up the lotus position in middle age... now she is spreading the message to others. Susan Raven reports

Mary Stewart would not have believed that hips that wouldn't move at 49 would suddenly change their minds at 50. "My hips were completely stuck," says the co-author of *Stretch and Relax*, a book of yoga exercises. "Then suddenly I could get the soles of my feet together, my knees on the floor and my head on the ground beyond my feet. The last six inches of getting my head on the floor happened from one day to the next. Then I found I could do the lotus position flat on my back - impossible six months earlier."

The book covers beginners' exercises, advanced exercises, exercising in pairs, exercises for stiffness and for stress, and even exercises for pregnancy. Except in the latter section, most of the photographs are of Mary Stewart's co-author, Maxine Tobias (40, thin, wiry and athletic) going through her paces.

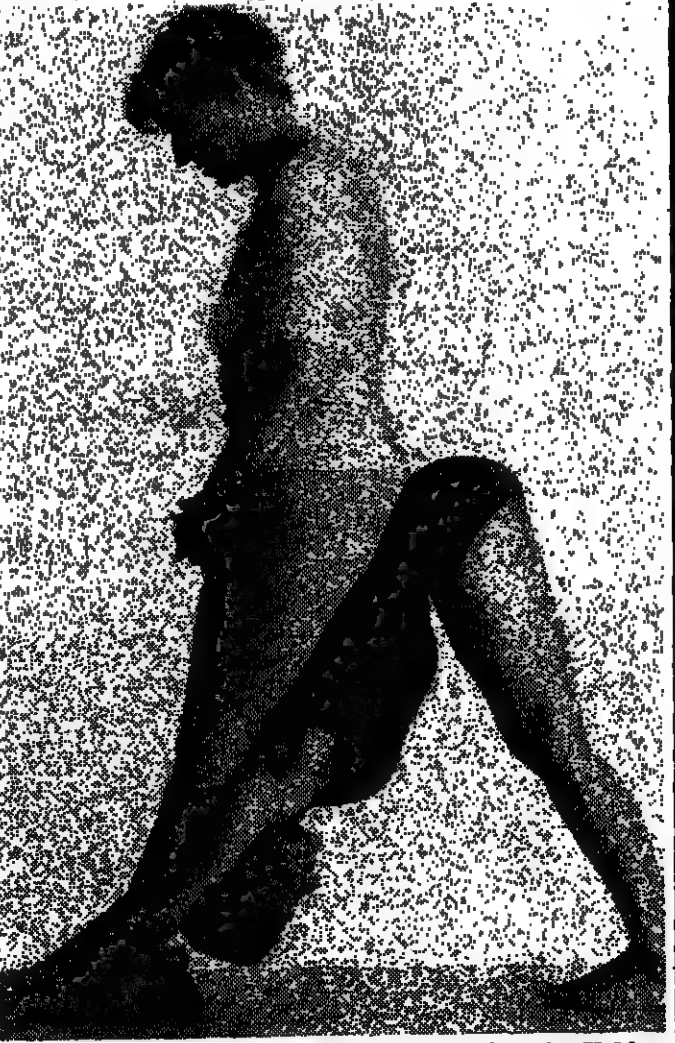
But there are a few of Mary, too, and the wonderfully encouraging thing about Mary is that she is not thin, wiry and athletic - and, at 52, in spite of her energy and youthful charm, not so very young either.

Mary did not take up yoga until she was 35, when her three children, now grown up, were at school. In those days very few people were doing it. Joan Price of the Face Place, one of the few, took her off to weekly classes with Stella Cherfas: "very relaxing, doing deep breathing, I felt marvelous, and lost half a stone. I even got to be able to stand on my head for the first time in my life."

Then she went to classes with B.K.S. Iyengar, and he could get you to move your body in a way you never thought possible. I was a tremendous old bully. I was both terrified and exhilarated.

Then, around 1970, the Inner London Education Authority started evening classes in yoga and needed teachers. So, barely two years after starting to learn, Mary found herself teaching. "It was much too soon, I may say, for a lot of us, but fortunately for a lot of us, it didn't expect us to teach meditation!"

She and Maxine met them, and they now both give several classes a week, each with 12 or 15 people. "I prefer groups," says Mary. "The one-to-one relationship is very claustrophobic."



Easy does it: Mary Stewart (standing) and Maxine Tobias

bic. I like beginners. I also train people to teach. I myself now go to another ex-pupil of Iyengar's and she didn't start yoga until she was 55. She's now 78."

She is still amazed by how yoga exercises can change people's lives. "Most people look on their bodies as so much luggage. But you can change what's in your head by working through your body - a great deal easier than doing it through your mind. To work from the known to the unknown is much less difficult. I feel I'm more alive than I ever was before. Among pupils of mine I've seen so many lives transformed."

She does half an hour's deep breathing, relaxation and concentration after getting breakfast for her husband Keith at home in Chiswick, London, and an hour and a half's exercise practice every morning. "As I teach it, I must at least attempt it, and anyway I find it fun and fascinating."

She does head and shoulder stands between 4.30 and 5.30 every evening (though never when she has a period) to unwind after the day.

"I'm still very stiff compared with other people, but you learn a lot if you're stiff. I've seen

dancers who are so supple that they're too floppy to learn. Anyway, yoga is not geared to performance but to being whole. Unlike ordinary exercise it's slow and safe."

"It's basically about unity - health is a by-product. All the same, one of the first things yoga cured was my cystitis. I had it chronically and it went, slowly, over the first 18 months. A couple of years later when I hurt my back the cystitis came back, and I discovered I could cure it by relaxing in a certain way. I could switch it off in 20 minutes."

"I used to suffer from general backaches, endless stomach trouble and the occasional migraine, but I can't remember when I last took an aspirin. I was very overweight, 100 and now I'm always 9st 12lb. "My formerly flat feet are now a work of art. Believe me, a great deal of work has gone into them. It's not a painless path. But you find that it is possible to be comfortable with your body."

*Stretch and Relax*, by Maxine Tobias and Mary Stewart (Dorling Kindersley, £8.95 hardback, £5.95 paperback).

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## TALKBACK

From Ronnie Goodchild and Kaye Wellings, Family Planning Information Service, Mortimer Street, London W1.

Readers of *The Times* looking for information on contraceptive usage would, this week, have found themselves faced with wildly differing estimates of contraceptive usage leading to similarly diverse conclusions.

An estimated figure of 10 per cent (constant) for sheath usage, for example, led Laurie Taylor (Secrets of a Modern Bedroom, Wednesday Page, November 13) to the conclusion that men were not reassessing contraceptive responsibility despite the efforts of the MEN TOO campaign aimed at increasing male awareness (which, incidentally, was organized by the Family Planning Association and not the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, as reported). The following day, a figure of 30 per cent (increasing) for sheath usage prompted your staff writer, Gregory Neale (condom sales "increase after pill scares", 14.11.85), to the opposite conclusion, that the sheath was making a major comeback in the contraceptive repertoire.

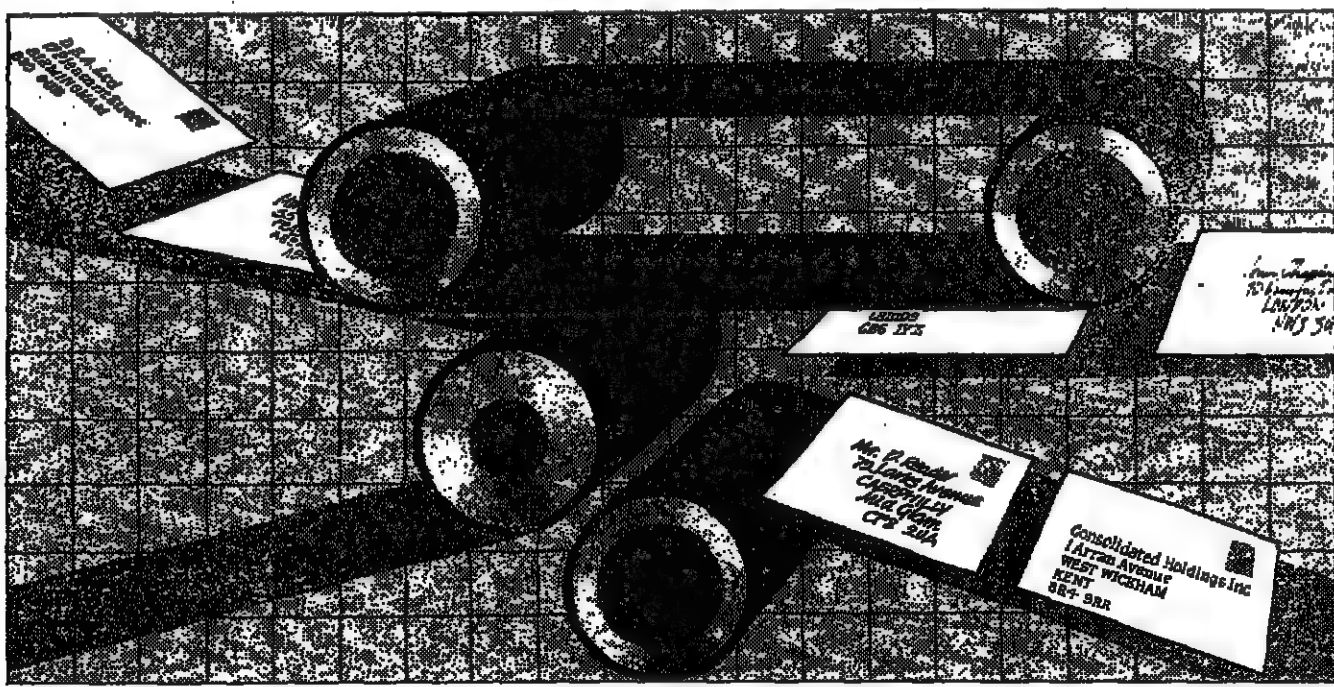
It is notoriously difficult to assess patterns of birth control usage in Britain, partly because of the absence of any regularly collected statistical data. From our own research, drawing on DHSS family planning clinic statistics, survey data and manufacturers' sales figures, we estimate that oral contraceptives are the method of choice of just over three million women in Britain (27 per cent of those in the fertile age range); the sheath is the main method of just under two million couples (15-19 per cent); just under one million women are fitted with the IUD (8-9 per cent) and a further quarter of a million use a cap or diaphragm (2-3 per cent).

So that, although the sheath has undoubtedly made some headway recently against other methods, the method which is increasing most rapidly in popularity is sterilization, male and female, currently adopted by some 20 per cent of couples in this country.

From Mrs P. Jilks, Swanley, Kent.

Many women (including myself) share Christine Brown's plight (The name I never dropped, Wednesday Page, November 13). Isn't it about time more women retained their maiden name (prefixed by Miss)? During the past 16 years, the only worthwhile use I have ever found for sharing a husband's surname is when signing Christmas cards to acquaintances. I have never heard a convincing argument in favour of using the titles Ms or Mrs in preference to Miss.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Dire straits

Former Treasury minister Peter Rees is feeling like the missionary invited to dinner by natives only to find he is on the menu. Six months after agreeing to speak at the local Chamber of Commerce lunch, next month, the Dover Tory MP was told that the local TV cameras had also been invited. What's more, he would be grilled by angry traders worried that a Channel tunnel would turn Dover into a ghost town. Rees, who is still weighing up how the Channel will affect Dover's interests, put his foot down. The cameras could stay only if TVS, the local ITV company, transmitted the whole speech - not just the heckling - or if he could have the final say over editing. TVS told him no deal, thus defying its editorial integrity. "That's just pompous nonsense," Rees told me more than happy. I fancy that his alterations will now remain strictly off screen.

Unjammed

The thaw from the Geneva summit spreads ever wider. The latest beneficiary is Radio Three, which has been hoping to organize a season of programmes from Russia late next year. When East-West relations deteriorated over the tit-for-tat expulsions in September, the Kremlin withdrew its invitation. Now it has had a change of heart and invited Radio Three's controller, Ian McIntyre, two music producers and head of talks George Fischer over to Moscow to resume where they had left off. The BBC hopes that the Kremlin will now allow it to replace Tim Sebastian, the Moscow correspondent expelled in September. The new man will be Brian Hanrahan, of "I counted them all out" Falklands fame.

On the carpet

My story last week about the Liberal spokesman trapped for 25 minutes in the Manpower Services Commission lift in London was, it turns out, only the unhappy punch-line to a longer saga. The previous day the MSC chairman, Brian Nicholson, had exploded over the lift's grubby appearance. Having failed to impress workers with the need to clean it up, he announced a time when the entire MSC staff could watch him taking a dustpan and brush to the floor himself - an event called off only after 11th hour action by an underling.

Reap as you sew

I wonder if arch right-winger Norris McWhirter realizes he is clothing the Russian bear. He is director of the holding company behind Savile Row outfitters Gieves and Hawkes - revealed last week as tailors to Mikhail Gorbachev.

BARRY FANTONI

Illustration of a man holding a sign that says "LIVE RPOOL AID".

Aplomb

Bumping into Michael Parkinson, presenter designate of *Desert Island Discs*, I made the mistake of suggesting that Roy Plomley was quite an act to follow. Barnsley's most famous son took this amiss and pointed out sniffily that similar things had been said about successors to other programmes. "When Larry Grayson took over from Bruce Forsyth on *The Generation Game*, the ratings went up."

Les said

Not all Labour MEPs were amused by colleague Les Huckfield's decision to race a toy woodpecker up and down a two-foot stick during the big budget debate at the European Assembly. An anonymous press release from Strasbourg now announces that MEPs plan to "race small (but life-size) models of Les Huckfield up specially imported gum trees".

Ken's clearway

Six months after grabbing the parliamentary nomination for the London Labour stronghold of Brent East, Ken Livingstone is witnessing the disintegration of the local party. Its chairman, Emma Tait, the secretary, Alf Filer, and two other officers have just resigned in the midst of a have just resigned in the midst of a row over the non-selection of a hard-left activist to fight a Brent council seat in May. The resignations, accompanied by a dozen others in recent weeks, also mainly from the hard left, stem from the controlling faction's anger over Livingstone's GLC races U-turn. But with the Ken faction throwing its supporters' weight quickly move in and mop up. After all, Livingstone won the seat only after sitting MP Reg Fresson was dethroned. He would not want anything like that to happen to him.

Nicholas Timmins presents a patients' guide to waiting lists

Where to go for that op

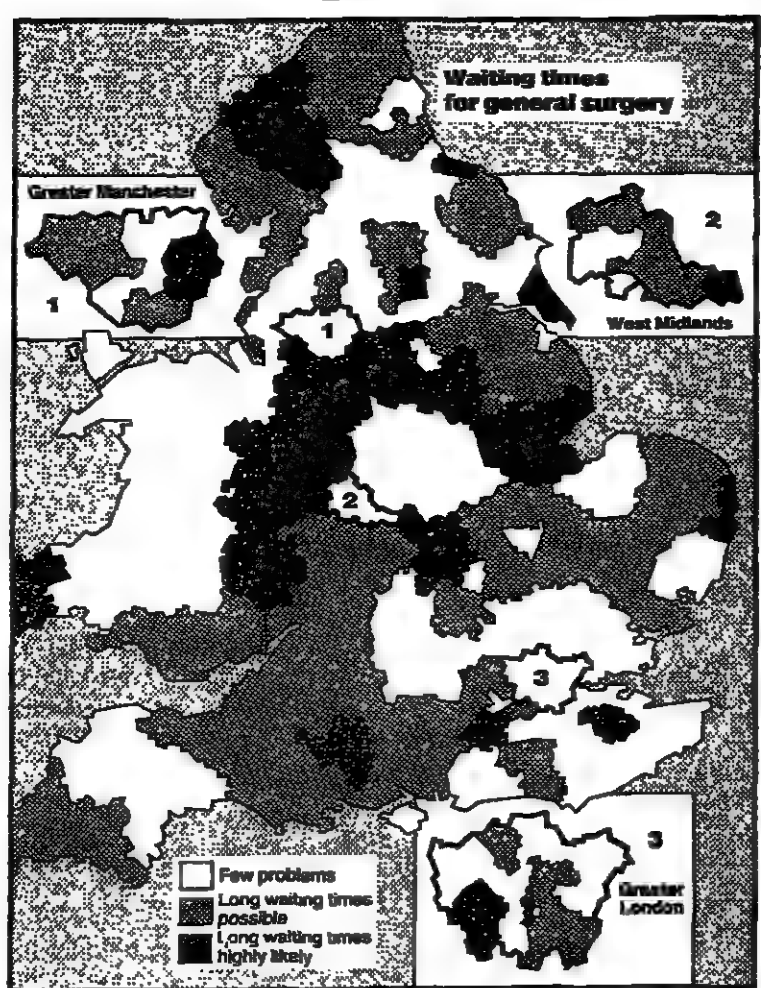
Wide variations in the size of NHS waiting lists and the length of time patients have to wait for an operation are shown in a new guide published today by the College of Health. About 675,000 people are waiting for hospital admission in England, 150,000 of them for more than a year.

The college's guide covers general surgery, orthopaedics, gynaecology, ophthalmology, and ear, nose and throat surgery, which between them make up 50 per cent of the waiting list. The variations are not only in the length of time that patients have to wait, comparing one health authority area with another, but in the types of operation required.

The guide shows, for example, that in Southampton 95 per cent of patients wait over a year for an orthopaedic operation. But in 10 health authority areas, nobody waits that long. In Crewe, 2,190 "non-urgent" cases are waiting for general surgery, 72 per cent of whom have been waiting over a year. In neighbouring Chester, however, the number is only 492, of whom only 4 per cent have to wait a year or more.

But in orthopaedics, Crewe does relatively well: only 334 patients in the queue and only 4 per cent having to wait a year. In Chester the queue is much the same size, but 20 per cent have to wait for more than a year. In the Leeds East Health Authority area, 41 per cent of non-urgent gynaecology patients wait over a year for admission; in Leeds West, with the same size queue, only 3 per cent wait that long, and in neighbouring Harrogate, where the queue is shorter, nobody does.

The guide is designed to let patients prepared to travel to "hot spots" and work out for themselves where they might go for an operation if the wait in their own area is long. Marianne Rigg, director of the College of Health, said yesterday that health authorities where more than 40 per cent of patients have to



wait a year for admission should undertake a thorough investigation. "It is too easy to say that waiting lists are there simply because of lack of resources," she said. "That cannot be used as an excuse in every case. Long waiting times exist in districts which are short of resources but also in those where resources are in abundance. Equally, some districts that are under-resourced have few waiting problems."

"Not only do waiting times and levels of resources vary, but so do

levels of efficiency. Many districts use their beds, theatres and surgeons to the full. There are others which waste beds and theatres and don't make full use of their surgeons. Sometimes such inefficiency is due to a failure to balance beds, theatres and surgeons. If that happened for only a few months at a time it would be understandable, but often such imbalances continue for years and years."

The college is worried that patients who can afford to do so are paying for private treatment when faced with long queues. "We have heard from people who have gone private only by mortgaging their homes or spending their life savings," says Marianne Rigg. "People don't realize that private treatment is not the only alternative to years of suffering. GPs are entitled to refer patients to any consultant within the NHS who is prepared to see them."

The guide is not perfect. Although it can divide patients into those waiting over a year and those waiting less, it cannot give the actual length of wait. Nor does it give waiting times for an out-patient appointment - which can be many months. A district with a short list and few people waiting for a long time may be using limited resources very efficiently. Adding only a small number of patients to its list could rapidly increase waiting times.

The guide will be less than popular with many doctors and health authorities. Apart from the extra work that GPs will face from patients demanding to be transferred elsewhere, health authorities, under the current NHS rules, get no extra money, at least in the short term, for treating patients from outside their district. At present only a few health authorities are demanding payment from other districts; the number is now almost certain to grow.

Guide to Hospital Waiting Lists 1985; College of Health, 18 Victoria Park Square, Bethnal Green, London E2 9PF; £2.50.

General surgery: queues compared

Cumbria W	517	494	19	Hull	1281	1281	41
Darlington	325	324	14	Mid of Wight	72	71	0
Dorset	548	548	2	Mid of Wight	358	358	0
Dorsetshire N	575	506	49	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorsetshire S	923	751	12	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorsetshire W	484	486	25	Northampton	967	967	20
Doncaster	1050	905	40	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	1228	1245	28	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	563	542	18	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	724	709	13	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	222	212	25	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	1912	1848	27	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	479	460	30	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	1001	984	17	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	448	437	3	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	386	386	0	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	430	414	10	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	829	850	18	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	882	880	10	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	882	880	10	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	845	819	2	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	190	190	0	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	1172	1165	25	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	1775	1715	22	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	350	348	28	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	453	427	35	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	739	739	26	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	813	813	0	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	111	109	1	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	522	519	3	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	548	548	17	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	517	480	2	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	808	771	60	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	748	748	0	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	747	681	4	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	388	388	0	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	300	300	0	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	1843	1567	32	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	1117	1117	0	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	974	967	20	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	899	844	48	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	2343	2180	72	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	1251	1251	43	Northampton	967	967	20
Dorset	441	440	28	Northampton	967	967	20

Elizabeth Walton celebrates 25 years of the saga that had Betjeman hooked

And many happy Rover's Return



Part of today's cast: Bill Roache (front, third from right) is the only member from the first rollcall.

Everyone concerned with the production, particularly the writers, displays an acute judgment of the capabilities of each actor and the scope of the characters. The difference from the theatre is that there is no live audience. The cast rely on one another for criticism and support.

"It all starts with the script," Podmore says. "Without that, it's nothing." The high standard of the scripts was set by the man who invented *Coronation Street*, Tony Warren. He based the first episodes on life in the streets of Salford where he was born, and he rocked the audience with the first kitchen-sink drama to be seen on television only four years after *Look Back in Anger* had galvanized British theatre.

Warren had an ear for credible dialogue and a penchant for anecdote, with the support of Sidney Bernstein, the committed socialist who then headed Granada, the team got the formula right.

Today, Jean Alexander's dressing room door opens and inside sits dizzy Hilda Ogden from 13 Coronation Street, crowned with curlers and urban. Twenty years of playing in a national institution has familiarized the actress with dithering devotees, barely able to distinguish between reality and the Street. She even modestly shares her enthusiasm for the character: "Hilda's fabulous. She confirms men's worst suspicions about women, and they adore her."

When the task force sailed for the Falklands they wanted to take Hilda with them. Photographs along with Hilda won that war. "I think Hilda won that war," says Miss Alexander. "Her face frightened the Argies away!" If this actress has a fault it lies in the exquisite subtlety with which she plays tragedy so that her audience suffers along with Hilda - one of life's great excluded.

Precious little subtlety clings to the character Bet Lynch, who took over from Annie Walker at a game girl with a

special brand of Street Chic which lends itself to imitation by drag artists all over the world. Truly appalling earrings flutter down to her shoulders. "They're just like dead canaries," muses Julie Good-year to the dressing room mirror. The actress has only one thing in common with the character, she plays, and that is the syncretized swing of her hips as she punishes the floor with her highest heels.

Bet skids along on life's banana skins and because of the Coronation Street fan's passionate involvement with these characters, try as one might to be cool, it seems uncharitable not to warn her about the next obstacle.

"Don't worry," says Miss Good-year. "My mother said exactly the same thing about me when I was a young thing. I was only 16 years old. Women like Bet. They know she's going to fall flat on her face, so she's a real threat." As she points Bet in the direction of disaster the actress is required to deliver some of the best light comedy lines currently to be heard on television: she accomplished the task faultlessly.

The production team never underestimates the power of the Street's storylines. "When Deirdre Barlow stayed with Ken, people saw that it isn't inevitable that families break up," claims Bryan Mosley, "and they were relieved." Newspapers all carried front-page reports of that eternal theme, memorably interpreted in 1983 by Anne Kirkbride. Johnny Briggs and the Street's last survivor from the first episode, Bill Roache.

When Mosley spoke recently to the Cambridge University Coronation Street Appreciation Society he began his speech in character, gradually metamorphosing into his off-screen persona as he turned to his audience to address reality. "It even bothers me sometimes," he says. "I was on the set the other day, drinking imaginary beer, talking to an imaginary barmaid in an imaginary pub, and I thought what a doing here! I'm a married man with six kids and four grandchildren. This is no way to carry on!"

But long may the Coronation Street team continue to enchant us. John Temple, the latest producer, is most concerned with the sheer entertainment value of the programme, often turning to the discipline of the northern music hall tradition for new faces. The only pity is that Betjeman is no longer with us to enjoy the company's recent brilliance.

Anne Sofer  
Young idea - and so wrong

Lord Young, to all appearances genial enough, is giving the education world the heebie jeebies. He is almost (but not quite) replacing Sir Keith Joseph in education demography.

He is certainly good at giving the game away. Consider, for instance, his remarks on the new examinations, all in the process of implementation or close to it. Teachers have been persuaded to co-operate in their preparation on the understanding that they will be made available to a wide ability range rather than exclusive hierarchies of ability.

So we have the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE), possible, Sir Keith hopes by 80 per cent of 16-year-olds; the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative (TVEI), intended to motivate those of all abilities aged between 14 and 18; and the one-year Certificate of Post-16/Pre-Vocational Education (CPVE) for the "bottom" 40 per cent and upwards.

In an interview in September's *Business Education*, Lord Young was asked if the new range of exams was not causing a lot of confusion. "There is no confusion," he said blithely. "GCSE, TVEI and CPVE are clearly for different 'constituencies' - thus removing at a stroke years of patient work and neatly repackaging children into three neat boxes: academic, technical and vocational."

Although Lord Young is responsible for co-ordinating government action on these matters, he hardly seems at all with the way the school system functions. Challenged on the dangers of early specialization, he replied in the same interview that it was already happening. "At 11, 12, and 13, young people have to decide whether they are going to take science or the arts, or languages rather than something else. All we are doing is admitting this reality. This is a reality, I have to admit, I have never encountered in any British school."

Lord Young is a fervent and unblinking advocate of early differentiation however, and hence a sworn enemy to the educationists who are (rightly in my view) moving in the opposite direction.

But the row on this issue is tending to drown out a matter of even greater significance: that despite the air of bustle and innovation, the dynamic vocabulary of skills and technology, the government has no plans - I repeat no plans - for sustaining, let alone increasing, the levels of skill training in the crucial 16-19 age group.

Apprenticeships in manufacturing industry have fallen to less than half the number existing when this government took office. Numbers on technical training courses, having risen for a number of years, are now also falling fast. Nobody, not even the government, pretends that YTS with its 13 weeks of "training" is filling this gap. Even if and when this increases to 20 weeks under the new two-year scheme, it will inevitably fall short of a serious initial qualification for skilled technical work.

It is in fact planning to leave about a third of the age-group to stew - either in a diminishing number of dead-end, unskilled jobs with no training at all, or on the dole. Each young person on the dole, rather than in education or on the YTS, saves the government more than £1,000 a year; a young person in employment well over £2,000. So it is not surprising there is no plan to include them all in the education and training net. The Labour Party, confining its clamour to the level of the YTS allowance and the "right to stay on the dole", connives in letting the government off the hook.

Two things are desperately needed: a crash programme to make good the erosion of skill-training and a strategy for the rest of the century. This should include an expansion of numbers in full-time education, upgrade both the quality and quantity of training within the YTS, make sure all young people can afford to stay in or return to full-time education, and bring part-time education/training to all 16 and 17-year-olds in employment.

The SDP publishes today just such a strategy, *Tertiary Education for All*. We believe the vast majority of people in the country will think such a programme is a better investment for the future than tax cuts.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/LEA for St Pancras North.

moreover... Miles Kington

Now, Icarus, don't be so ridiculous

I used to think a fear of heights was simply a fear of heights, until I went to Italy last month for a belated summer holiday. Now I realize that it's rather more complicated than that, even in October in Italy.

The part of Italy we explored was in the south, from Naples down to Maratea, and I am not sure how much I would have wanted to go there if I had known how much it would involve going to the top of things and looking down. The tops of cathedrals, the tops of castles, of hills, of Vesuvius - even seaside hotels can be on top of cliffs, at Sorrento, or Amalfi, or Acqua Fredda. Anywhere you go in Ravello is on top of a drop. Even coming out of Amalfi cathedral you find yourself at the top of 50 precipitous steps. But the main church in Ravello is the cruellest, because the floor slopes quite dramatically, and you can find yourself at the altar looking down the steep drop to the front door.

It's not that I'm really frightened of heights. I actually love them. I love them so much that when I am on top of a precipice, I have a compelling desire to launch slowly out into space and fly away. Put me on top of Vesuvius, and all I want to do is glide slowly down into the crater. Yet there is some inner logical sense that tells me that if I do, I might hurt myself. What I am really frightened of is the temptation to fly off the top of high places, which so far I have always resisted but sometimes just.

Spike Milligan never had this temptation. One of the books I took with me on my Italian holiday was the fifth volume of his war memoirs, which I had promised to review for *Encounter* (and the review is coming, dear *Encounter*, I promise you). Spike was actually present on the flanks of Vesuvius during his last great eruption in 1944, all six days of it, and his description of how he lived through it is quite memorable. Our guide also remembered it well. "1944, here, in Vesuvius, was very amazing. The earth exploded!"

He gestured. To stop myself from flying off the rim, I gabbled back at him. "Do you remember a young English soldier here at the time, name of Milligan, he had a bottle of wine in one hand and a trumpet in the other, and later he invented *The Goon Show*?"

Desire to please the tourist struggled in his face with honesty.

Honesty won. "No, signor. Now, signorina..."

Signorina was my companion. Let us call her C. C. has no fear of heights. It is quite astounding. Put her on top of Vesuvius, and she will go closer to the edge, get a better look. Astonishing! It's stunning. And yet at Palinuro I found that she had a chink in her armour.

Palinuro is a small sports resort, which in October is full of no one. We went swimming in a deserted cove, staring at fish through our goggles, floating over reefs and jagged rocks. Afterwards, she told me that she had not enjoyed all of it.

The worst moment was when I was swimming over shallow rocks and suddenly found a huge drop on the far side, like flying over Mont Blanc. It made me feel quite sick.

Yet that was the moment that I, with my fear of heights, had most enjoyed. Thinking about it, I suddenly realized why. My urge to fly had suddenly been satisfied. Snorkelling is flying, and once I was flying I had no fear. Once I was launched into space, I had no fear of space at all. I would meet a rotten mountain and a great parachute. It was in another chair behind. She looked positively olive-green.

It didn't last, of course. As I said earlier, we ended up at Maratea, a wonderful hill town which boasts on the mountain above it one of the biggest statues of Christ built anywhere, a huge effigy 80 feet high constructed by a loony sculptor with a Scandinavian name. Christ stands with arms outstretched like a celestial goalkeeper, on the edge of a 1,000 foot drop. C. C. of course, wanted to go up there. When we arrived, I clung pitifully to his big toe-nail, which is about the size of an English shoe box, while she walked round him to have a look over the sheer drop.

"You ought to come and have a look," she cried. "The view is wonderful!"

"I'm sorry I haven't been to church for a few years," I told her. "Do you think Y? You could overlook it and stop me jumping off the edge?"

A miracle occurred. My wish was granted and I didn't jump off. My next wish is to go on holiday next year to somewhere very flat.





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## HOME FROM THE SUMMIT

The hope first kindled by the fireside summit was further fuelled by the enthusiastic applause to which President Reagan and Mr Gorbachov returned. They talked at length without rancour, it was said, and agreed to meet again in Washington and Moscow. According to *Pravda*, it is the end of a long cold winter. What are the chances that *Pravda* might be right?

Any substantial progress on the main issues which divide the super powers, from arms control to regional conflicts, will depend on detailed negotiations by experts: but even these hardened veterans, grown grey with frustration, should be heartened by improved relations between their leaders. True, this will not be the first time that three summits are held in as many years. There were three from 1959 to 1961, followed by the Berlin Wall and Cuban missiles crises; and there were four from 1972 to 1974, followed by the collapse of détente. This time, however, the handshakes took place on a platform of greater realism.

Neither leader has learned to like what the other represents. But only those misguided enough to identify the Russian people with the Communist system are surprised that President Reagan should find likeable qualities in a Russian who has reached the top of that system. A man with charm, who clearly loves his family, his country, and maybe even mankind in general. As General Secretary he has already given a more human face

to Kremlin politics. A year ago it would have been unthinkable for Soviet citizens to see their leader interviewed live on television by foreign journalists. The sight of him joking informally with his Foreign Minister, is a welcome change on the screens of both East and West, almost as important as showing Soviet viewers that President Reagan is not the ogre earlier portrayed. This lighter style of the Kremlin has greatly improved the atmosphere, but has not yet brought a change of substance.

As for Mr Reagan, he is now putting over a clearer view of what US policies towards the Soviet Union should be. The fresh start should mean a little more discipline, a reduction in the feuding and bickering in Washington. Mr Reagan has rightly not yielded on SDI. He has not compromised and given new guidelines to his arms negotiators. But he has committed himself to seeking agreement, to a series of measures to improve the atmosphere, and to the concept of institutionalized dialogue with the Soviets, both at summit and at ministerial level.

This is not a new détente. But it includes some of the ingredients of détente, a dialogue that is closely tied to progress in arms control, regional conflicts, and human rights. The difference, of course, is that the results, especially on arms control, must be fair, equitable and verifiable – something that was so lacking in the fruits of the old détente.

At home Mr Reagan has pulled off a political coup. He

has reinforced his personal authority with a vigorous performance watched in millions of living rooms across the country. Amid fears that he would fluff his lines or send the wrong signals, or deafen the Soviet leader with evil empire rhetoric, Reagan was the old Reagan, and as so often, gave his best performance in the glare of the world's spotlights and the merciless cameras.

This recapturing of the political initiative at home will help Reagan on all fronts. Congress is more likely to take the lead from a president who is standing tall on the world stage, though whether this can be translated into action on such issues as budget deficit remains to be seen.

Mr Gorbachov no doubt hopes that a deflated Soviet threat will make it more difficult to win the required funding for SDI from Congress. In the long run the best hope for world peace is a sea change in Soviet politics. And there is no indication of any such dramatic development in the revised Party programme or in the other blueprints for the future which Mr Gorbachov intends to present to the Party Congress in February.

Thirty years ago at the first Geneva summit the Soviet leaders called for a commitment to the non-use of force in international relations. A year later that "spirit of Geneva" was crushed under Soviet tanks in Budapest. Mr Gorbachov has much to do before he goes to Washington.

## WHY ARE WE WAITING?

The political debate over the health service takes place in a welter of slogans about "cuts", "waiting lists", "clinical freedom", and "resource allocation". Demands for ever more taxpayers' money go hand-in-hand with disregard of how that money is to be used. In the smoke-filled rooms full of vested interests little light ever appears. When it does, it is therefore particularly welcome.

Waiting lists have a particular place in health care rhetoric. The left treat them, like the unemployment figures, as though they were a touchstone of all that is right or wrong. Much of the medical community uses them as a trump card to play for more resources. A few, particularly hospital doctors in London, argue that if only patients were prepared to leave their homes and come to the capital for their treatment, everything, including the future of their London teaching hospitals – would be well.

The waiting list figures, which are available today for the first time in such detail, reveal that there is indeed an enormous variation throughout the country. As can be seen from the table opposite, there are districts where for some types of surgery anything from 40 per cent to 95 per cent of patients wait a year or more. In others, for the same operations, nobody waits that long.

The guide, that has been produced by the College of Health, tells patients how to go about transferring from one district to another if they face a long wait. Some doctors are opposed to this kind of information being more widely available. For General Practitioners it means extra administrative work. And not all hospital doctors like the idea of their waiting lists being reduced. A waiting list makes a doctor feel wanted. For patients who are able to move easily to obtain their operation the new figures will be extremely useful and deserve the widest publication.

But as far as the political argument is concerned, the Health College's guide tells only half the story. While it can show where the waiting lists are long, it cannot show why some districts have enormous queues and others only short ones. Information that can help explain why the queues vary so much could, however, be available. It is held at the Health Services Management Centre at Birmingham University where a unit, part funded by the Department of Health and part by the health authorities themselves, uses standard NHS statistics in a computer package to compare health authorities' performance.

The great majority of health authorities now use the material themselves. But while the unit is free to publish comparative data about health authorities, it cannot publish named data about individual health authorities which can show whether an individual district is genuinely short of resources, whether it is grossly inefficient, or whether merely some small administrative failure is creating the queues.

The Birmingham data show, for example, huge variations in the numbers of empty beds. There are big variations in how

efficiently operating theatres are used, and in doctor's workload. In some districts, the figures suggest, queues could be cut by transferring beds or operating sessions from specialists that are lavishly provided to those that are desperately short.

What the Birmingham work clearly shows is that long waiting lists are not due simply to lack of resources. There are long queues in districts that are very underprovided, but also long queues in districts that are well provided for beds, theatres and staff. Some districts with few facilities still manage to keep queues down.

Publishing the information about named authorities would be in everybody's interest. The taxpayer would be able to see how efficiently his money was being spent. The public would have more information with which to press inefficient authorities to make improvements. Authorities that are using their resources well but still face long queues would have on public record the evidence to back their claims for more money. Those health authorities in London who argue they can in fact provide the most efficient services, and it is better to allow patients to travel to them, would have their claims open to more public scrutiny.

At present the data is not published because health authorities, who have helped pay for it to be put together, are in general unwilling to release it. It is an issue for management action. Finding a way to get the data released should be the first item on the agenda of the next meeting of the NHS Management Board.

rather suddenly when benign seeming terrain reveals itself as dangerous. The nature of necessary supervision would thus not be apparent at a time when appropriate duties could have been allocated; and the existence of any issue about the dangers of dispersal could, reasonably, not have appeared as requiring assessment until too late. And, since children on school trips know that they are supposed to remain with their group, the sight of the group's leaders moving away, with other children, might reasonably be expected to prompt separated children to follow, without shouting or hand signals from leaders.

The report of Mr Garrett's group is not fair. It is full of the cruel wisdom of bureaucratic hindsight. Yours faithfully, JOSEPH HOUSTON, Dean, The University of Glasgow, Faculty of Divinity, Glasgow. November 18.

uniquely privileged, in charge of marketing statistics for a major multi-national, to watch the story unfold.

Responding to the labour shortages of the sixties, middle management placed tens of thousands of proposals before their boards of directors to automate the antique systems and machinery then in use.

Terrified of change, the pre-war generation board members clamoured for an easy way out. Harold Macmillan, as prime minister, gave them that escape path with unlimited access to imported unskilled labour. Nine out of 10 of the projects were vetoed, so in the early eighties we watched from enforced redundancy and early retirement the fossilized remains of that outdated technology being bulldozed to the ground.

Now our sons and daughters aspire to equip with robots a Britain that lacks the essential pre-condition, a firmly based automated industry. They struggle to perform the impossible: to leap from a labour-intensive unskilled society to a software-led world. It cannot be done. The essential quarter-century of transitional skill in automation is missing.

Our children, and future generations, must reap where Lord Stockton has sown. Future historians may rate his speech one of the more poignant of the century. Yours sincerely, MALCOLM DUNLOP, Ravenswood, Gregories Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. November 16.

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## Fears for safety in coalmines

From the National Secretary of the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shovelers Sir, During the nineteenth century a number of appalling mine disasters brought about a public outcry relative to the safety in mines. As a consequence legislation was introduced into the mining industry. At that time the "mineworkers" expressed concern that the legislation introduced would make mine work unattractive, affect employment and be difficult to implement.

Since the introduction of the Coal Mines Act further mining disasters have resulted in the original legislation being amended.

In recent months it has been noted that the chairman of the board has expressly pursued a policy of "Americanisation" the British coal-mining industry and during a recent address the chairman commented upon the differences between the British mining legislation and that in America.

Senior board members have expressed the need for possible amendments to statutory regulations. The point must be made that the possible amendments were not to improve safety, but to improve efficiency.

The association I represent have never opposed the introduction of new technology. However, recent mining disasters around the world have highlighted that many lives have been lost in the most technically advanced mines.

It must be repeated that the Coal Mines Act was established by the public conscience of the British people. Surely any amendments, however necessary, must be undertaken to improve and maintain safety and not solely to improve profitability.

Yours faithfully, P. MCNESTRY, National Secretary, National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shovelers, Simpson House, 48 Northall Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire. November 15.

## Televising the House

From Mr E. A. Geaney Sir, On reading the report of the debate in the House of Commons (November 21) on the televising of its proceedings I am drawn to the inevitable conclusion that there are 275 members who are contemptuous of the people who elected them and of true democracy.

Democracy should not only be done. It should be seen to be done. What do they have to hide?

Yours faithfully, E. A. GEANEY, 13A Courtland Drive, Erit, Kent. November 21.

From Mr H. K. Bailey Sir, Surely the question of the televising of Parliament is a case for a referendum and not a vote in the House.

After all the question is not do we want to be seen but do we, the public, want to see them.

Yours faithfully, H. K. BAILEY, Chaucer Lodge, Maresfield Park, Uckfield, Sussex. November 22.

From Mr James Brebner Sir, I see, without surprise, that those in favour of appraisal of others have voted against appraisal of their own performance.

Yours faithfully, JAMES BREBNER, 2 Viewfield Gardens, Aberdeen. November 22.

## Sunday trading

From the Chairman of York Civic Trust Sir, For the past 25 years I have, every Sunday morning, wandered around this city's empty streets – streets which bear the physical marks of history. On that day, as on no other day of the week, one can hear the message which this lovely city has to give, one can savour to the full its minor pleasures; one can sense that this city, like so many historic cities, has indeed a soul.

One can go to divine service in a great cathedral or humble parish church in a spirit of peace, tranquillity and reverence and enjoy that service uninterrupted by the noise outside. It is possible, as one walks the narrow streets, to appreciate that the very fabric of the city itself needs a day of rest, in much the same way, though on a larger scale, as our great historic houses. A day for renewal, for restoration, for freedom from pounding feet.

All this, it seems, is to be swept away in the name of freedom and commercialism. The one day in the week which is different, the one day on which a secular society is thereby reminded of its Christian heritage, the one day on which the week's work done, the fever of life subsides, is to go.

One argument used by the proponents of unlimited Sunday trading is that there are – and I concede the point – ridiculous anomalies in the present law. But there is a simple alternative solution which requires but a one clause Bill. Close all the shops.

Sir, I plead for Sunday. Yours faithfully, JOHN SHANNON, Chairman, York Civic Trust, Flat 9, St Georges House, 23 Castlegate, York. November 18.

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## Academic freedom in South Africa

From the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Cape Town

Sir, Ms Warwick's letter (November 16) about the AUT (Association of University Teachers) boycott and what she refers to as "the timely gesture" of the World Archaeological Congress gives one side of a complex question, and some of her information is out of date.

Contacts academic, cultural, sporting or whatever – with South Africans can be exploited by the South African authorities, and the current cricket tour by rebel Australians is an example of this. But the type of contact must be considered.

The exchange of ideas and the mutual search for truth can and do feed and nurture what Ms Warwick acknowledges as the "many heroic people in South Africa fighting apartheid as best they can".

I had occasion some years ago to reflect on the example of Einstein when he was threatened, together with his fellow Germans, with an academic boycott after World War I. The nuclear physicists tried to make an exception in his case, but Einstein would have none of it.

Knowing that his colleagues were to be barred because they were German nationals from the fourth Solvay Congress, Einstein declined to receive an invitation. He said to Mme Curie: "It is unworthy of cultured men to treat one another in that type of superficial way as though they were members of the common herd, being led by mass suggestion".

The University of Cape Town has not been unaffected by the recent events in South Africa. The Chancellor, the chairman of the council, the presidents of the staff association and the students' representative council and I have had occasion to express our concern at our national crisis.

We have called for immediate lifting of the state of emergency, the rapid and unambiguous introduc-

tion of reforms, which must include the abolition of apartheid, racism and racial segregation in South Africa; and the negotiation of a new just constitution which ensures full democratic rights, the release of all detainees and the prosecution of any persons who have assaulted them, and the release of political prisoners; and the withdrawal of the military from the townships. These are minimal steps for peace and goodwill in South Africa.

The AUT is committed to pressure for peaceful change in South Africa. I welcome that. I question, though, whether an academic boycott achieves this: Would an AUT programme, developed together with authentic community representatives, aimed at repairing the damage caused to the educational system – and the people who have suffered under it – by apartheid, although more difficult, be more meaningful?

Ms Warwick states that only 10 per cent of students at the English-speaking universities are black and "these students" must have ministerial permission to follow courses not available at their "own" ethnic universities.

The percentage of these universities is between 15 and 20 – admittedly low, given demographic facts – and because of the protests of these universities ministerial permission is not required in all but very few cases.

Nevertheless I welcome the AUT assertion of the need for the genuine exercise of academic freedom, in my country as elsewhere, as well as other basic freedoms denied to the black majority (and, it must be said, to the white minority).

Yours sincerely, S. J. SAUNDERS, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch 7700, Cape Town. November 21.

## Anglo-Irish pact

From Mr Arthur T. Ginnings Sir, As a political expert, I would readily support the demand for a referendum about the recent Anglo-Irish agreement on Ulster, provided that this was to be conducted throughout the UK. This is a matter of concern for all citizens and not only those resident in Northern Ireland.

If such a poll were regionalised (say in Northern Ireland, Scotland, England (North), England (South), Wales respectively) Parliament would be better informed in advance of taking what should be a free vote on the issues. After that, the decision of Parliament should be accepted and implemented by all concerned – whatever that decision may be.

Unfortunately, however, I am pessimistic about the outcome of even such an expedient as I suggest because, as must be clear from past experience, the tragic situation in Ulster cannot be remedied by military or political initiatives. It is

sad to see or hear no reference to the spiritual (as distinct from religious) factor in any of the comments by our political and other leaders among those of which I am aware. Has not the time now come when a further Christian initiative needs to be set in motion?

For obvious reasons, it seems unlikely that organised religious groups would be able to succeed now in achieving what they have failed to do in the past. On the other hand, an independent ad hoc group of convinced and committed Christian men and women in all walks of life who are able and willing to dedicate themselves to such a task would be bound to make an impact and, by God's grace, become the means of averting what could become an even greater tragedy in that unhappy province.

Yours faithfully, ARTHUR GINNINGS, Freshwater Close, Eastbourne, East Sussex. November 18.

## Sharing the blame

From Mr Kenneth Adams Sir, In his article, "Blame the bosses, not the schools" (feature, November 18), John Rae says that "the principal aim of Industry Year 1986 is to counter the alleged anti-industrial bias in our education system".

As the initiator of Industry Year 1986 and the movement of which it forms part I trust that you will allow me to say that he is mistaken. The aim of Industry Year 1986, clearly stated in all its literature, is to increase understanding of the role of industry and its service to the community. Certainly those involved believe that by doing this we will help to change the anti-industrial culture which exists in this country. This adverse English attitude to industry, which has long affected our industrial performance, has often been examined and analysed. I commend Professor Martin Wiener's book, *English Culture and the Decline of the Industrial Spirit 1850-1980* published in 1981.

In 1974 I worked with others to start a movement to effect a change in this anti-industrial culture and in 1979 I set out what I saw as its principal causes in a report, "Attitudes to Industry in Britain".

In April, 1980, in a lecture at the Royal Society of Arts, I restated those causes and suggested future action to attack them, including the proposal which led to Industry Year 1986 being launched by the RSA. They can be very briefly stated as: Widespread ignorance or unawareness of how we as a nation provide all the wealth which is required to sustain our standard of living and all our social and public services.

An educational style which has not been closely related to the ways in which we earn our living. Discontentment with some of the ways in which industry operates. Disappointment with our industrial performance.

Negative Christian attitudes to industry and commerce. All five of those causes of our anti-industrial culture are being tackled during Industry Year 1986 and there are no doubt others which will be exposed and challenged during the year.

Yours faithfully, KENNETH ADAMS, 7 Danet Road, Windsor Berkshire. November 19.

## The Press at Geneva

From Dr J. M. Lewis Sir, Having attended the summit press sessions conducted by the Soviet spokesmen Leonid Zamyatin and Vladimir Lomeiko, I cannot agree with your correspondent's (report, November 21) that either of them seemed "to relish questions on... human rights".

Far from giving any "lengthy exposition of Soviet policy" on this subject, the Soviet spokesmen dismissed as "without substance" a question on the fate of Anatoly Shcharansky. They denounced as "unethical" a separate query about his wife's appeal on humanitarian grounds to Mrs Gorbachov at Geneva. They derided as an "historical lecture" a third jour-

nal's suggestion that, if human rights questions had been raised at German press conferences in the 1930s, Soviet lives might have been saved.

"Not only I but others will understand why these questions have been raised," said Zamyatin, whose willingness to expatriate on Soviet "peace policy" in Afghanistan only made his refusal to address human rights more ominous.

The "disarming" of pressmen by the Soviets "very humour", which your correspondent reports, seems to have been all too effective in their own case.

Yours faithfully, JULIAN LEWIS, The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1.

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November 25, 1985

(SPECIAL REPORT)

NORWAY/1

# Vast, empty and bursting with wealth



Norway's royal family: Crown Prince Harald and Crown Princess Sonja with their children, Princess Märtha Louise, 14, and Prince Haakon Magnus, 12

Three special circumstances define the Norwegians, to themselves as much as to others. To begin with, their nation has been independent only since 1905, when an unwanted union with Sweden was peacefully dissolved and a Danish prince elected King.

Centuries of domination by Denmark and Sweden continue to reverberate through society to the extent that even the Norwegian language, thought to be the fastest-changing in Europe, has yet to establish a clear identity.

The Second World War and the German occupation were doubly traumatic for a people to whom autonomy had come so late. The attempt to maintain neutrality was shattered by the German invasion in April 1940, and the resistance mounted by the Norwegian people continues to be a point of fierce national pride.

The genesis of the country's enthusiastic (and controversial) involvement in Nato can also be traced to the wartime thoughts of the venerated Trygve Lie as foreign minister in exile.

Patriotism, then, is a key to understanding Norway and the Norwegians. Geography and

## Election issues were clear-cut

demography are another: the howling loneliness of a vast region stretching to the far northern boundaries of the habitable world, with (excluding Iceland) the lowest population density in Europe.

The country is so long that if it were pivoted at its southern end the northernmost tip would approach the heel of southern Italy. Finally, there is the explosive effect of the North Sea oil boom on a country that, according to at least one Norwegian economist, was at the turn of the century the poorest in Europe and, 150 years ago, the European equivalent of modern Bangladesh. Today it is amongst the richest countries in the world (see table) and perhaps one of the most agreeable in which to live.

To be fair, the problems of governing a sparsely populated country as rich in natural resources as it is in open spaces

The visit to Britain of Crown Prince Harald and Crown Princess Sonja, which begins today, marks the climax of an export drive. Tony Samstag reports on the political and economic situation

and scenic grandeur are scarcely comparable to ours. Successive administrations come and go smoothly, their differences of approach more closely resembling political fine-tuning to British eyes than the ideological upheaval guaranteed by our increasingly polarized society.

But to the Norwegians, basking in a prosperity and freedom that were unknown and apparently unachievable within living memory, their enviable situation seems far too precarious ever to be dull. Last September's general election was therefore a rather more spirited affair than might have been expected, at least by foreign observers, in a country whose inhabitants had only so recently "never had it so good"; so good that one British writer was moved to "a sense of wonder that Norway is a part of crisis-battered Europe".

The issues, in fact, were surprisingly clear-cut: how best to use all that wealth while guarding against the day when

the wealth runs out, or at least when the consequences of misguided policies might come home to roost.

Even in what was described by the leader of the tiny right-wing Progress Party as "a luxury election", feelings ran high, especially over the failure of health services to keep pace with the seemingly inexorable rise in standards and expectations in other spheres of daily life.

## Boom expected to continue

The Labour Party, headed by Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, a charismatic woman (and herself a doctor) whose potential as a world-class international civil servant easily matches her claims to national leadership, gained five seats, leaving Mr Kaare Willoch's Conservative-led coalition in power by a single seat.

Such problems as there are,

then, are unlikely to be resolved in the immediate future, and the administration will almost certainly find itself at the mercy of the half dozen or so smaller parties eager to consolidate their claims to a separate identity and an influential role in central government.

Although inflation and unemployment are both comfortably low - about six and 2.5 per cent respectively - the irony of the new Norwegian prosperity is a sense of impatience, aggravated by the high tax rates needed to bolster a social welfare system that is the envy of most other European countries; a feeling that the free-and-easy consumer life available to less rigidly organized societies remains just out of reach.

But even discounting the oil and shipping sectors, the boom is firmly expected to continue, with a respectable growth rate of four per cent this year, and a rise in the number of people in employment of two per cent. Real disposable income continued to rise by as much as five per cent in the first quarter of this year, and bank credit is easily come by.

Mr Willoch, the prime minister with a single-seat majority, is likely to find foreign policy one of the stickier issues

## THE RICHEST COUNTRIES (1983 - preliminary figures)

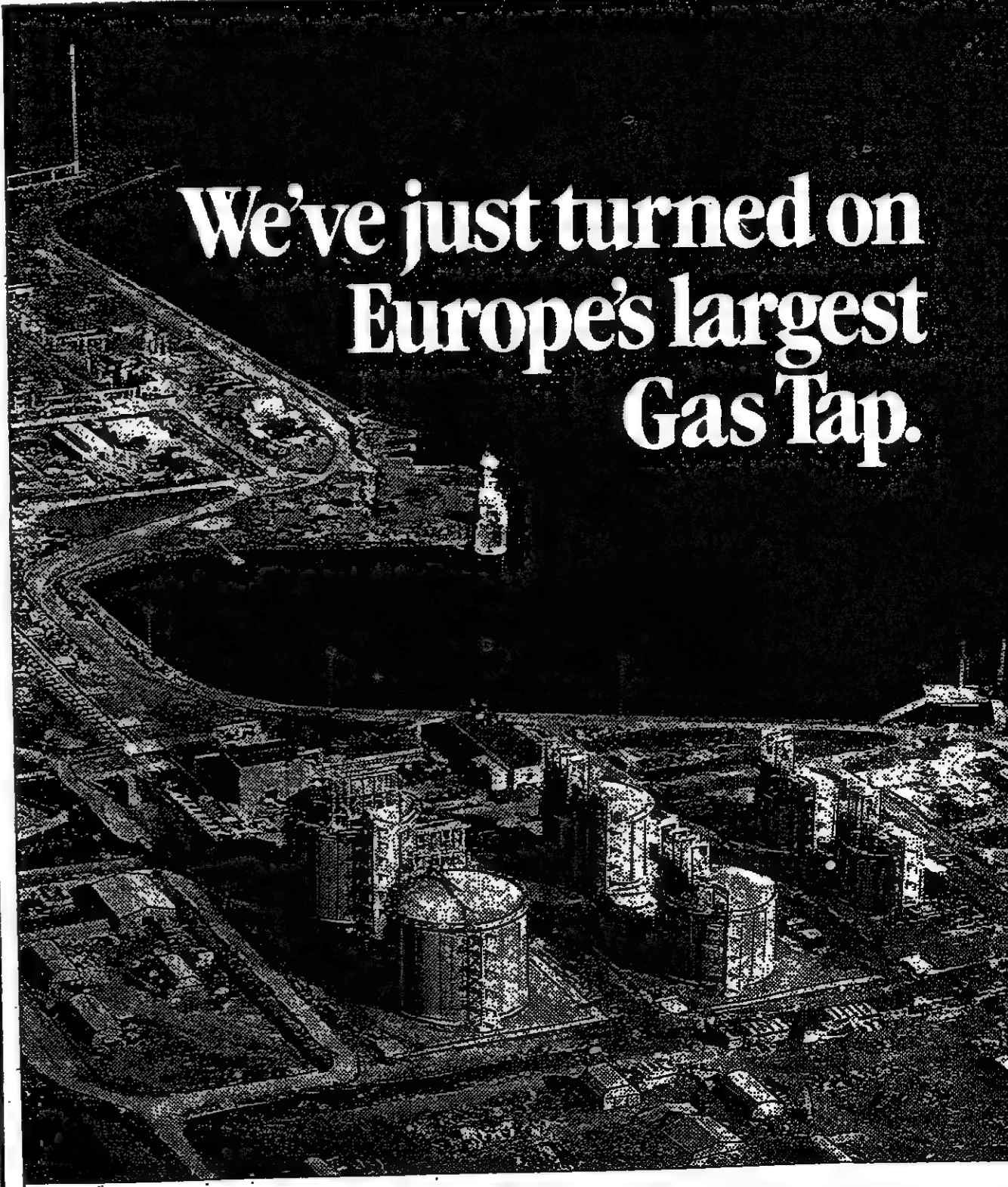
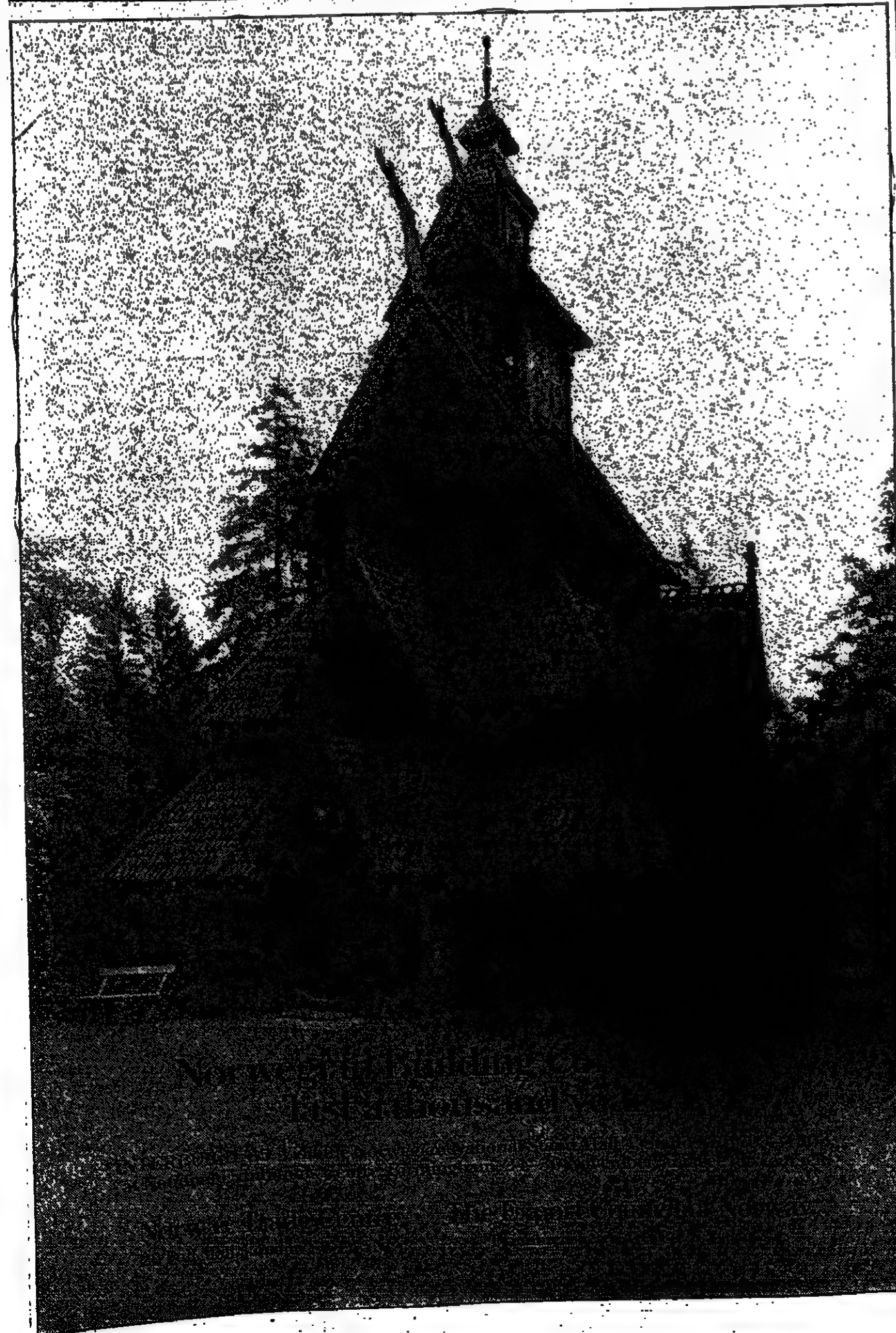
	Gnp per capita in US \$
United Arab Emirates	21,340
Qatar	21,170
Brunei	21,140
Kuwait	18,180
Switzerland	15,390
United States	14,090
Norway	13,820
Bermuda	13,320
Sweden	12,400
Luxembourg	12,190
Saudi Arabia	12,180
Canada	12,000
*Estimate	

Source: World Bank Atlas 1985

in the immediate future. A pervasive American influence - from the virtual takeover of Stavanger, the oil capital, whose atmosphere is reminiscent of a frontier company town in an old western movie, to the inauguration earlier this year of Radio Nato in Oslo, offering a mind-numbing diet of pop music and psychobabble - has begun to generate a good deal of resentment throughout Norwegian society, and the Conservatives' reflexive pro-American line could become increasingly untenable as the cultural backlash intensifies.



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## Problems of too much money

There is something almost lugubrious about Norway's attempts to come to grips with its booming economy. Political and economic leaders speak often, solemnly and at length about the need for prudence and restraint in conditions generated by such an overabundance of mineral wealth as not to get out of control.

What is most feared is crudely described as "the Dutch disease": a runaway spiral of inflation and unemployment as mainland industries become progressively less competitive.

Despite the domination of the economy as a whole by the oil and gas sector, it accounts for less than three per cent of the country's employment. The consequences of Norway developing into a one-product country would be severe.

As a major exporter of energy, comparable to Kuwait and Nigeria in its tonnes of oil equivalent production, Norway has boasted a substantial trade surplus for at least the past five years - it has not had to borrow abroad since 1980 - and its current account surplus is expected to approach \$3.5 billion (about £2.4 billion) this year.

Without the income from oil and gas and associated industries, however, that surplus would become a deficit of about \$6 billion. That hidden potential for the kind of trouble taken for granted by most other countries is evident in the north, where the OECD has identified more than 100 towns based on one company, many of which have become uncompetitive in international markets as wage claims based on the rocketing pay scales of off-shore workers have spread.

The government might be prepared to let a few of the shakier industries go to the wall; but there is unlikely to be much bloodletting.

For one thing, a "Conservative" administration is not the same animal as in a British context; for another, faith persists in the continuation of the present international economic recovery (non-oil and gas exports are expected to rise by about four per cent this year) and in the ability of the Norwegians to survive the extinction of traditional sources of income - the collapse of the herring fisheries and the wartime destruction of the northern forests are just two examples -

should the worst come to the worst.

Government subsidies are likely to continue where necessary for the time being.

Although Norway has a declared, and aggressively pursued, policy of encouraging two-way trade with Third World countries, most of its trade in goods is with other industrialized countries: Western Europe (EEC and EFTA), the United States, Canada and Japan account for about 90 per cent of both imports and exports.

The decline in Norway's total net foreign debt has been far less dramatic than the current account surpluses might suggest. A consequence of the strong dollar. As a proportion of the gross domestic product, however, it has fallen sharply, from 43 per cent in 1979 to 17 per cent at the beginning of the year.

Christiana Bank og Kreditkasse, one of the largest commercial banks, is rather less optimistic about the future than some other internal observers. In a review last month of the new government's economic programme for 1986, it is adamant that "the question is... not whether Norwegian

policy must be revised, but when".

Consumer prices in trading partner countries are expected to rise more slowly in 1986 than this year, and "raw material prices, interest rate trends and high unemployment entail good possibilities that the rate of price rise will be slowed further in subsequent years. At the same time, the National Budget indicates that the rate of inflation will rise rather than fall in Norway.

"Prices in Norway in 1987 may thus rise twice as fast as for our trading partners", who are, of course, competitors, and "in 1988 and 1989... the difference might be even greater".

Noting that "the high interest rate in Norway is out of step internationally", the bank calls for a tighter fiscal policy as "the key to bringing Norway's rate of inflation on a level with our trading partners".

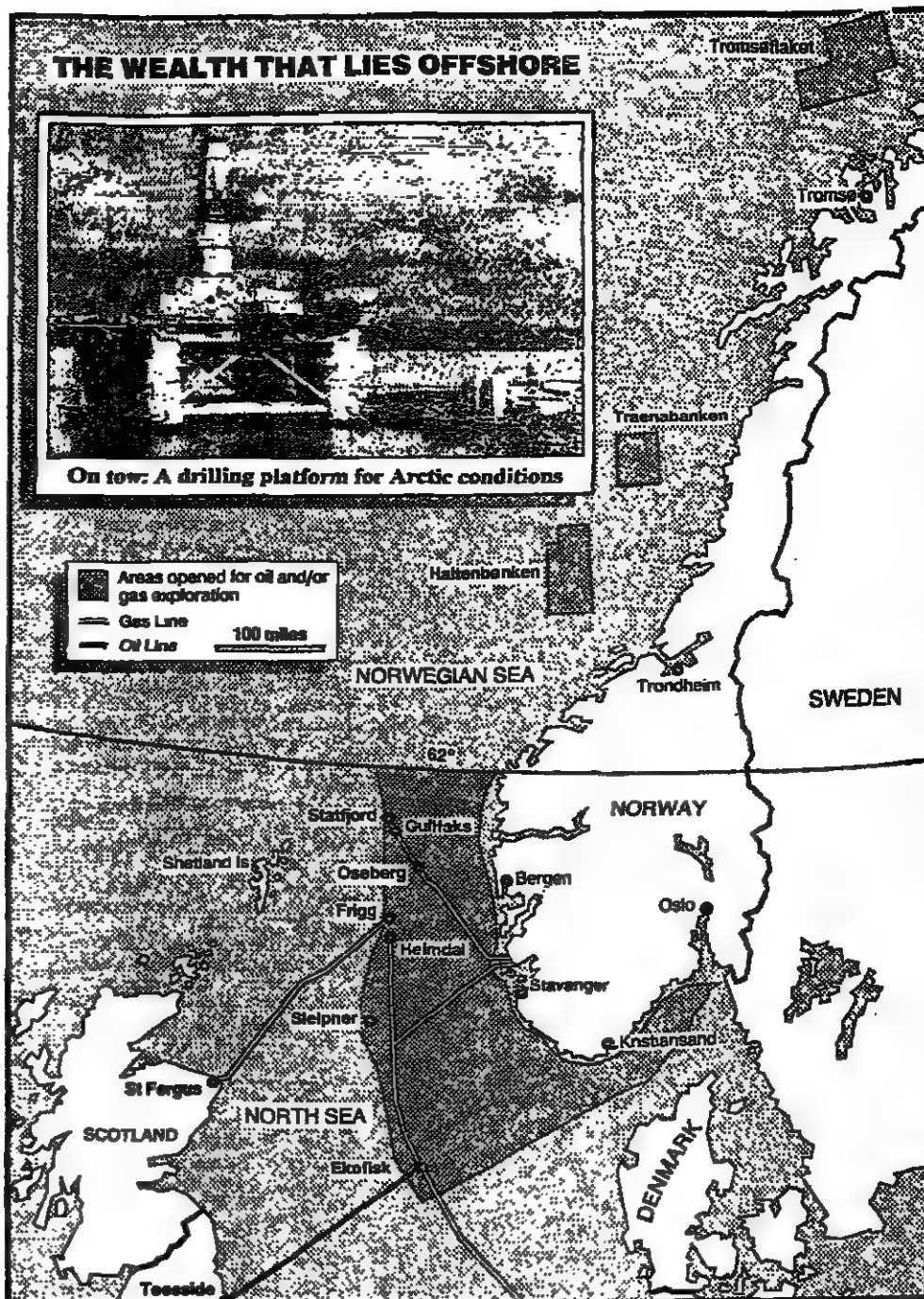
Norway's relationship with Europe has always been contentious: one political cliché would have it that the issue becomes the subject of national debate every 10 years.

After the surprising rejection of membership by a narrow margin in 1972, a quick-thinking government formulated a policy that has clearly worked well ever since.

"We want", said Mr Trygve Bratteli, the Prime Minister, "a close and open relationship with the EEC member countries. Norway's 'no' to membership in the EEC was not a 'no' to co-operation in Europe. ... If we are to solve the problems ahead of us, yesterday's strife must not be allowed to paralyse our actions today and in days to come."

"Our country must not be a passive recipient of the side effects from the EEC co-operation; our chief task is to promote Norway's interests as effectively as possible." Quite.

TS



## Expensive, cold and almost dry

Norway is cold and expensive. Much of the time you can't get a drink, and even if you can you can't afford it. The natives speak a funny language that sounds uncannily like English at times but goes up and down like a yo-yo; they start work very early in the morning and, in fact, seldom do anything else, pausing only to eat herrings at their desks or commit suicide.

That at least is the view, only slightly exaggerated, of the Dordogne and Benidorm sets, a cross-section that counts for much of the British tourist market. The Norwegians themselves, who do very well out of the shoals of Americans quartering the country each year in search of their Scandinavian roots, have made no great effort to change British attitudes, although there has been a flurry of activity in the past year or two to avert a threat to the venerable ferry service between Bergen and Tyneside.

Ironically, Norway, with its magnificent fishing rivers and hunting terrain - like the most splendid Scottish estate, but larger than life - was for many years a virtual holiday fiefdom of the English aristocracy, who left occasional traces in the form of startlingly perfect Georgian-style country houses or the abiding anglophilia of many Norwegians.

Such tourist enthusiasm for Norway as the British can muster nowadays tends to centre on the western side, the fjord country, around the resort city of Voss, and a relentless pursuit of ever more spectacular scenery. Those who disregard the general view of Oslo as a sleepy capital not worth bothering with are rewarded by the discovery of an old-world charm that is in ever-shorter supply elsewhere in Europe.

TS

10. October 1217.

"Dignus dei gratia Daginus eadem gratia Regi Norwegie salutem. Immensas Nobilitatis vestre referimus gratiarum actiones de hiis, que per litteras vestras et prudentem virum abbatem de Eysa nobis significastis, volentes et desiderantes fedus pacis et dilectionis libenter nobiscum inire, et nobis confederari. Bene autem placeat et placebit nobis quod terre nostre communes sint, ut mercatores et homines, que sint de potestate vestra, libere et sine impedimento terram nostram adire possint, et homines et mercatores nostri similiter vestram, dum tamen litteras patentes super hoc nobis destinetis, et nos vobis nostras transmittamus..."

This is the beginning of a letter written by King Henry III of England to King Haakon III (Sverreson) of Norway on October 10, 1217, agreeing in principle to free trade and good will between the two countries. As the first agreement on paper between the UK and Norway, it paved the way to excellent trading relations for almost 800 years. We intend to do our best to prolong these traditions for another 800 years -

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## Strict lessons in oiling the economy

Almost 20 years ago, when oil and gas were first discovered on the Norwegian continental shelf in the North Sea, the country had no direct experience of petroleum operations. Advanced levels of research and industrial technology, however, and centuries of experience as a maritime and fishery nation, meant that Norway was in a strong position to exploit its new resources, writes Tony Sæviing.

The ever-present fear of the disruptive effect of the new wealth on such a small country has led successive governments to keep extraction of oil and gas to a moderate rate, in theory an annual output of not more than 90 million tonnes of oil equivalent (t.o.e.), barely two per cent of the total world output. But even that level is unlikely to be reached much before the end of the century.

Estimates of existing petroleum reserves are uncertain: only their vastness is not in doubt. The Petroleum Directorate puts recoverable reserves south of the 62nd parallel at 4-5 billion t.o.e., and it is thought that north of the line reserves may be even greater.

Statoll, the Norwegian state oil company, has benefited in the past year from its masters' preoccupation with protecting society from the worst excesses of the oil boom. Until 1984, its national obligations were total: the company was forced by law to conduct all its business, from exploration to

refining to retailing, through Norwegian industries.

Suddenly, with an income approaching 40 billion kroner (about £3.5 billion), Statoll had become the nation's largest industrial company, and forecasts showed its potential would grow larger than that of most other Norwegian companies combined by the year 2000.

The government grip was loosened - in self defence, as it were - and the

### Fiasco that was almost a devastating blow

company was set free on an international orgy of expansion and acquisition that the *Financial Times* earlier this year compared to a new round of Viking invasions, launched, ironically, while the so-called Seven Sisters of the industry were in decline. The new freedom sparked a national debate on the degree of State interference necessary or desirable in a nationalized company that was now expected to behave as aggressively as if it were a purely commercial operation, a debate that is unlikely to die down.

It is perhaps just as well that Statoll had so many other interests, and that its heady early expansion coincided with the Sleipner fiasco last February. Whitehall's decision to renege on a

commitment between the British Gas Corporation and Statoll to buy £20 billion worth of gas from the Sleipner field - a veto, after more than two years of negotiations, that has yet to be satisfactorily explained, in the view of many in the industry - could have dealt a devastating blow to the Norwegian economy, no less than to Anglo-Norwegian relations.

In fact, long-term projections suggest that the Norwegians will come out of the affair rather better than the British. Short-term, phase two of the Gullfaks development alone has taken up much of the slack; and it is as certain as anything can be in such a volatile industry that the Sleipner reserves will eventually come into their own.

Statoll is phlegmatic, as it can afford to be, about the loss of what would have been the biggest trade deal in British history. "We don't have feelings in this case, we only register things", a spokesman said loftily.

The fields already scheduled for development are thought to contain reserves of about one billion t.o.e. Of those most recently developed, Heimdal and Gullfaks are considered the most immediately important. Expanding operations in the north, however, most significantly in the Oseberg, Haltenbanken and Tromsøflaket, could change the picture entirely.

Norway's own demand for oil and gas is only about 9 million tonnes with

production running at over 50 million tonnes annually, the surplus available for export is the equivalent of the combined needs of Sweden and Denmark.

Concessions on the Norwegian shelf are granted under tight conditions. Statoll, for example, automatically takes 50-80 per cent in each concession; foreign licensees are also required to set up a Norwegian subsidiary and a base in Norway.

Perhaps the most stringent control of all was passed last July, empowering the oil ministry to order the development of a field against the will of the licensee if that development is felt to be in the national interest. Despite moves earlier this year to ease some of the restrictions, arguments erupt with some regularity, both nationally and with frustrated licensees (or unsuccessful applicants for concessions).

It is perhaps ironic that this embarrassment of energy riches should have fallen on a country that consumes far more electricity per capita, because of its near-infinite reserves of hydropower, than any other country in the world.

It is unlikely that the price of electricity will ever rise sufficiently to make oil as crucial to domestic energy needs as it sometimes threatens to become to the economy as a whole.

TS

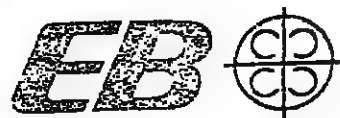
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## SPECIAL REPORT

NORWAY/3

Buying into Britain,  
from fish to micros

The opening by Crown Prince Harald this week of the British headquarters of Norsk Data, the computer company, marks the latest surge in the wave of Norwegian investment which has swept into Britain during the past few years. By the end of 1984, 74 manufacturing and 177 sales subsidiaries were operating in Britain and a further 48 companies were involved in banking, insurance and other financial services.

Having moved several times since 1980 to keep pace with rapid expansion, Norsk Data has now settled in Benham Valence, a beautiful 18th century mansion outside Newbury, Berkshire. The company, one of the leading European producers of minicomputers, bought the house and 110 acres for £800,000 and then proceeded to restore it and to add a modern block in the grounds. Work on a second extension will start next year.

Ten people moved from London to Norsk Data's first office in Newbury in late 1980. Today 200 are employed at Benham Valence and there is room in the present buildings for a further 100.

Sales almost doubled each year to reach nearly £7 million in 1984. The figure for 1985 is expected to be between £10 million and £12 million and the company thinks it will be able to sustain 65 per cent annual growth after that.

Its first customers were technical and scientific institutions but the market has since widened to include commerce,

industry, defence, higher education and local authorities. Norsk Data is particularly pleased with an order from the Lloyd's Underwriters Non-Marine Claims Office in the City - worth £500,000 initially, with £200,000 to follow - which it won against competition from IBM.

Among the attractions of Britain to the parent company in Oslo is the availability of computer engineers. Norsk Data set up a research and development section in its British subsidiary in 1983 and next year is expected to at least double its staff from the present level of 30. It has also gone into a joint venture with Racal to work on artificial intelligence.

Second, the company is making use of British marketing skills, an area in which Norway has been traditionally weak. This is graphically illustrated by the fact that when the British subsidiary advertises on television next January it will be a "first" for the group as a whole.

Sales drive into  
EEC countries

Norsk Data's investment of about £10 million in Britain is part of a drive into the EEC. In West Germany the company has bought the Dietz computer business and with it a CAD/CAM system called Technovision. In France it has reached an agreement with MATRA under which the French company markets locally and in Italy,

Spain and Portugal. MATRA is to manufacture in France, paying royalties to Norsk Data, and the two will co-operate in R & D.

European expansion has also been a feature of Norsk Hydro's activities in the 1980s. One of the biggest fertiliser producers in the world and Norway's second largest company in terms of sales, it has invested overseas with the huge profits made from North Sea oil and gas. Between 1981 and 1983 it put about £100 million into Britain alone.

First it bought two PVC companies, which it merged. Then it acquired Fison's fertiliser division at Immingham for £50 million and is now to spend a further £80 million on building a nitric acid and ammonium nitrate plant there.

Finally, it bought a fish farming company in Scotland. This is graphically illustrated by the fact that when the British subsidiary advertises on television next January it will be a "first" for the group as a whole.

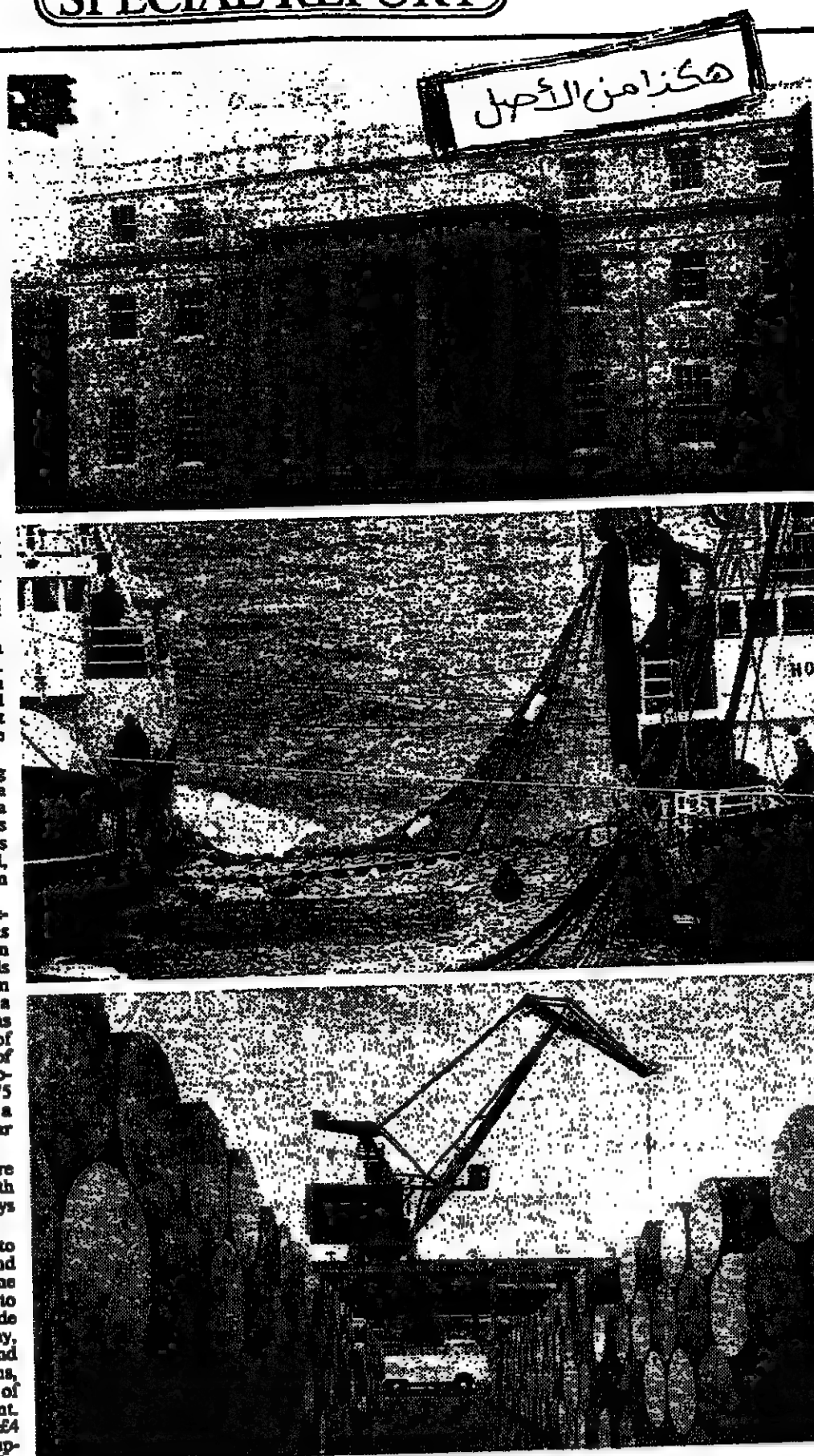
Norsk Hydro's spending spree in Britain was part of a move into bulk chemicals at a time when other companies were getting out. Acquisitions have included NSM in Holland, Sapa in Sweden and Veba in West Germany.

Elkem is another big Norwegian company (eighth in terms of turnover) to have invested in Britain. It bought two steel mills in the late 1970s but sold them in May this year as part of a general move out of steel. It has a 25 per cent share of Alcoa of Great Britain, a subsidiary of the American aluminium producer, and this year took a 75 per cent stake in Crystalox, a metal refining company near Oxford.

Elkem sales to Britain are worth about £100 million, with aluminium and ferro alloys accounting for 80 per cent.

The wish to break into the British offshore oil and gas market led Maritime Hydraulics of Kristiansand to set up a subsidiary on this side of the North Sea. The company, which is based near Leeds and staffed entirely by Britons, subcontracts the fabrication of cranes and drilling equipment. It has sold twin cranes worth £4 million for multi-purpose support vessels being built by Sunderland Shipbuilders.

Simon Scott Plummer



Traditional lines: (top) Norsk Data's 18th century headquarters in Berkshire; (middle) fishing in the North Sea; and aluminium at Elkem's Lissa smelter in Norway

Foreign invasion by  
the money men

Commenting on the Norwegian banking scene earlier this year a leading banker said: "We have a completely new financial climate here now. More has happened in the past 18 months than in the previous 25 years."

The Norwegians are not noted for being forthcoming about financial success and there is a distinct Scottish canniness in their attitude towards making money and making money work for them. But all that is changing. Liberalization of the banking legislation just over a year ago, which has allowed foreign banks into the country, has acted as a stimulus for more open activity.

After much deliberation the government decided last January to grant licences to seven of the 10 foreign banks which had applied for them. The first to do business was Citibank, which has had a representative in Oslo for many years.

The other banks joining in the "foreign invasion" include Samuel Montagu from London, Chase Manhattan and Manufacturers Hanover Trust from New York, and Banque Indosuez and Banque Paribas from Paris. Swedish banks have been barred because Sweden will not allow reciprocity, although this is likely to become a necessity before long.

There are strict limitations on the newcomers' activities, including the proviso that the working language must be Norwegian. Other restrictions apply to equity holding in Norwegian companies and financial institutions and a ban on subordinated loans.

Provisional estimates suggest that the newcomers will have a relatively small share of the credit market, which is put at around 3.5 billion kroner (about £310 million), and there is little apprehension in most domestic banking circles.

Trond R. Reinertsen, managing director of the Norwegian Bankers' Association, which has been urging the government to permit foreign banking operations says: "It is absolutely impossible for an economy like ours to forbid foreign banks here. Most of us like to think that we are becoming more outward looking."

The FOREX (foreign exchange market) is the current centre of attention. Until the end of 1984 banks were required by law to invest a

proportion of their assets in bonds, which accounted for the phenomenal activity in the bond market.

This regulation has been relaxed and the government has also adopted a more liberal attitude towards interest rates and allowed the introduction of commercial paper or negotiable certificates.

"We are now taking the first steps towards a much freer capital market system," Finn Ström-Gundersen, deputy managing director of Bergen Bank, said.

Banks can also make kroner loans to overseas borrowers and can compete with foreign banks in placing the Bank of Norway's foreign reserves (about \$10 million or £6.7 billion) and its strong balance of payments surplus. This was about \$4 billion at the end of last year.

Kroner loans to  
overseas borrowers

Oil companies, which work in US dollars, have to purchase large quantities of Norwegian kroner at forward rates twice a year in order to pay taxes to the government, which must be in kroner. This creates enormous activity in the FOREX spot market. The three major banks - DnB, Christiania Bank and Bergen Bank - have a daily turnover on the spot market in US dollars of an estimated \$9 billion to \$10 billion.

With the arrival of foreign banks, an injection of more financial talent, especially in foreign exchange dealings, and a more liberal fiscal policy, overseas investors and bankers are paying more attention to Oslo.

Since last spring a government-appointed committee has been studying proposals to allow foreign investors to acquire larger shareholdings in Norwegian companies. These have been limited to 10 per cent for banks, 20 per cent for industrial companies and 40 per cent for shipping groups. Just a year ago a secondary stock market was opened to trade in shares of small businesses.

The Kirkegaten, where many of the 30 banks have their offices, is rapidly turning into a mini-Wall Street, confirming that Oslo is set to become Scandinavia's fastest-growing financial centre.

Michael Frenchman

## BRITISH TRADE WITH NORWAY (in £m)

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Including oil and gas products					
Exports	791	877	925	829	968.4
Imports	1440	1949	2023	2821	3052.7
Balance	-649	-1066	-1098	-1992	-2084.3
Excluding oil and gas products					
Exports	557.9	602.1	656.7	655.4	839.5
Imports	739.5	820.0	897.9	785.0	912.7
Balance	-181.7	-217.9	-241.2	-129.6	-73.2
SHARE OF NORWEGIAN IMPORTS (%) (ranking)					
Britain	14.9 (2)	13.5 (3)	11.8 (3)	10.4 (3)	10.3 (3)
West Germany	13.6 (2)	14.7 (2)	15.5 (2)	14.7 (2)	14.5 (2)
Sweden	18.6 (1)	18.4 (1)	17.1 (1)	18.5 (1)	17.2 (1)
United States	8.0 (4)	9.2 (4)	9.2 (4)	9.1 (4)	9.0 (4)
Excluding oil and gas products					
Britain	8.4 (4)	9.0 (4)	7.7 (4)	7.8 (4)	7.4 (4)
West Germany	15.8 (2)	16.1 (2)	16.8 (2)	15.5 (2)	15.2 (2)
Sweden	18.7 (1)	17.9 (1)	18.1 (1)	19.8 (1)	17.7 (1)
United States	9.2 (3)	10.1 (3)	9.8 (3)	9.7 (3)	9.5 (3)

Source: Department of Trade and Industry

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the strongest market positions, the most efficient transport systems, the most competent employees, the best working relations. These are ambitious goals, but goals which we must constantly strive towards and to which our whole organisation at all levels must be committed."

Torvild Aakvaag, President.

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Norsk Hydro of Norway has a long tradition of converting energy into the raw materials of industry. It started with hydroelectric power at the beginning of the century. The end product: nitrogenous fertiliser. Today North Sea oil and gas have become the company's other main energy resource. The end products: petroleum deriva-

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## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## Will the undoing of Opec be good for employment?

There is one remarkable common feature of the economic forecasts which have appeared, like leather diaries, the usual month before Christmas. Sweet or sour, they almost all suggest the economy will follow one good resolution for 1986. Unemployment will stop rising, and, indeed, may even come down.

Because this opinion embraces some rather different views on economic growth, it suggests some rather fundamental change. To start with the City University Business School, which today adds its report to the pile. In its "base run", the Cubes suggest the economy will grow by a healthy 3.7 per cent. Now this is way out at the optimistic end of the spectrum. It suggests Britain's underlying growth rate (stripping out the confusions caused by the miners strike) is actually speeding up. So it is not surprising, perhaps, that the Cubes expect unemployment to fall. It is still remarkable that its "base run" suggests registered unemployment will come down by some 370,000 in a single year.

It is much more remarkable that the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, which published its review last Thursday, also muttered that unemployment "may even decline slightly" next year. For the National Institute believes the economy is slowing down. It is forecasting only half the growth suggested by the Cubes. The Institute is at the gloomy end of the spectrum, projecting a mere 1.9 per cent growth in 1986.

Over the past four years, we have managed a growth good but faster than that without denting unemployment. In 1982, gross domestic product rose over 2 per cent; but unemployment rose 360,000. In 1983, GDP rose well over 3 per cent; but unemployment still rose nearly a quarter of a million.

These figures, taken from the National Institute, have been adjusted for changes in the way the register of unemployment is compiled, so they can be directly compared with present forecasts. And even the National Institute's forecast suggests a fall of 130,000 in the number of adult jobs.

There are still those, like the Confederation of British Industry, who believe that the British economy can add another 2½ per cent to output without doing more than stabilize the level of unemployment. However, even that would be a significant change from the relentless rise of the last five years.

Why? Well, one obvious answer is the proliferation of government employment schemes. The Institute, for one, says it would be forecasting a further unemployment rise without them. However, some more profound changes are taking place.

Unemployment has stabilized over the past six months, without the help of the new employment measures, which are yet to take effect. The number of people on special schemes this September was formidable 671,000; but it had actually been falling since the previous year. Registered adult unemployment, meanwhile, has - seasonally-adjusted - been broadly stable since the spring.

This is not because of a strong rise in the number of jobs. We do not yet have full figures for September, but those for the previous quarter suggest the rise in employment was, for all ministers' brave words, pretty notional. In manufacturing, jobs were disappearing again, after a brief pause: in the services, they were appearing only slowly. Adjusting for the shift to part-time work, the number of "full-time equivalents" of employees actually fell 30,000 in the first half of 1985. It is only because self-employment is clearly rising strongly that the total number of jobs in Britain is actually going up.

Well, this is where the international comparisons beloved of government ministers may be admitted. We have still been doing rather better, recently, than most of the rest of Europe, where employment has plainly declined. There are four reasons - two economic, one demographic, and one a mixture of social trends and government tax-benefit policies - why Britain has had so much more unemployment for a given rate of growth. While three of them may be about to

change, there is a danger the fourth may get worse.

To start, most simply, with demography. The population of working age rose by an average of 180,000 a year between 1977 and 1984; between now and 1989 it will rise only half as fast. The school-leavers of the late 1980s are the steadily scantier fruits of a falling birth rate in the early 1970s; meanwhile a bulge of babies born after the First World War is passing out of the labour force and on to the pension.

The Cubes builds into its projections a further trend, towards less work after retirement. At the same time, it assumes that married women will not be flooding on to the labour market at quite the speed that they rushed into the new part-time jobs over the past four years. This, of course, would mean that more of tomorrow's new jobs would have to be filled by people presently in the dole queue. It is possible this social trend towards part-time work, which has hugely increased the number of working women, will slow a little, particularly if the Government hurries up its changes in taxes and benefits. More intriguingly, there is one aspect of the Cubes projections that suggests economic change in the same direction.

The Cubes vision of boom is based largely on the idea that falling fuel and raw material prices are going to give a "supply side" boost to the economy. And, most particularly, that the greatest beneficiaries will be the most intensive users of fuel and raw materials, which means manufacturing. In other words, we are about to experience a reversal of the first "Opec effect" on the British economy, when rising oil prices inflicted a double blow on the competitiveness of British manufacturing industry.

This is important, for its effects not just on output, but on the balance between employment and unemployment. On the face of it, manufacturing looks the least hopeful source of extra jobs. Even when things are going well, the rapid rises in productivity mean that manufacturing needs fewer people to produce every little bit of extra output than other industries, where productivity rises more slowly. However, extra manufacturing jobs have the greatest impact on the dole queue.

The National Institute, for its part, reckons that only one in five extra jobs in the services reduces the dole queue, while nine out of ten extra manufacturing jobs are reflected in a drop in registered unemployment. This is because more manufacturing jobs are full-time, and in typically male occupations. One of the two main economic reasons why registered unemployment has risen so relentlessly is that the economy has swung from manufacturing to services. If the balance of productive advantage swings back a little towards manufacturing, therefore, it will be easier to match registered job-seekers with jobs.

If not, the kind of economic dreamland forecast by the Cubes might actually be fraught with inflationary danger. For there is an increasing body of evidence that mismatching shrinks the labour market. That is, quite a small fall in unemployment could tighten the labour market and push up pay. Since the fourth, and most intractable reason why we are getting so few jobs for each snipped of economic growth is the rising real cost of labour, this is a deeply worrying prospect.

In reality, however, the Cubes's optimism on jobs, unemployment and output are closely related. If we do get some kind of reverse Opec effect of the kind described, then we will not get the sparkling growth rates, or the falling dole queue, or the tighter labour market. The Cubes's optimism is, it must be said, somewhat undermined by its own detailed analysis of the performance of British industrial companies, which suggests such recovery as we have experienced in manufacturing is already fading out and the 18 per cent of industrial companies are still at risk of bankruptcy. If we are experiencing the inverse of 1973-74, it is taking its time to show through.

Sarah Hogg  
Economics Editor

## IoD highlights lack of women at top

By Teresa Poole

For the first time in the history of the Institute of Directors' 82-year history, it is holding a major conference for women today. It will consider why so few women reach the top of their businesses or professions.

The IoD has 1,100 women members, but this represents just 3 per cent of the membership. It is estimated that only

one in 50 British directors is a woman. Sir John Hoskins, director-general of the IoD, said: "The two areas of concern which the conference is addressing are women's own motivation and flexible working hours. Women make very effective business leaders and it is a pity to let so much talent go to waste."

In a recent survey of women members, the IoD discovered that half blamed male prejudice as an obstacle. Only 5 per cent of top civil servants, 1 per cent of bank managers, 1 per cent of architects, 1 per cent of engineers, and 11 per cent of barristers are women. Follow the leader, page 11

## MARKET SUMMARY

## STOCK MARKETS

Friday's close and change on week

FT Ind Ord	1,135.4 (+49.3)
FT All Share	680.64 (+17.6)
FT Gov Securities	83.85 (+0.83)
FT-SE 100	1,451.0 (+47.1)
Bargains	32,860
Datastream USM	108.91 (+0.19)
New York	1,464.33 (+28.24)
Dow Jones	12,759.33 (+121.89)
Nikkei Dow	12,759.33 (+121.89)
Hong Kong	1,712.82 (-23.26)
Hang Seng	591.3 (-12.1)
Sydney: AO	238.7 (+5.2)
Amsterdam	1,773.4 (+79.4)
Commerzbank	982.34 (+63.43)
Brussels	246.8 (+13.8)
Paris: CAC	484.20 (+15.1)
Zurich	
SKA General	

## CURRENCIES

Friday's close and change on week

London:	\$1.4525 (+0.0022)
2: DM 3.7445 (+0.0164)	
2: Sfr 3.0616 (+0.0082)	
2: FF 11.4091 (+0.04)	
2: Yen 232.31 (+2.02)	
2: Index 80.11 (+0.09)	
New York:	\$1.4625 (+0.0085)

## BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interline Chamberlain Phillips, Durhill Holdings, Leigh Interests, Marshalls Halifax, Merrydown Wine, Norton Opex, Prontaprint Holdings, Sakers International, Sheraton Securities International, Southwest Resources, Strling Group, TR Technology Investment Trust.

Finals: British Empire Securities and General Trust, Carroll Industries, Radio City (Merseyside), Share Drug Stores.

TOMORROW - Interline: Alphametric, Apolite Computers, Bassett Foods, BPD Industries, Carless Capital & Leonard (amended), Crown House, David Dixon Group, Fashion and General Investment, Garmore - American Securities, Hambro, Robert Kitchen Taylor, FH Lloyd, Monks Investment Trust, Parkland Textile Holdings, Rothmans International, Thomas Warrington & Sons.

Finals: JH Fenner, Murray Growth Trust, St Ives Group.

## CBI forecasts manufacturing growth of 2.5% next year

By David Young

The Confederation of British Industry today forecasts continued growth in manufacturing industry boosted by higher consumer spending, but gives a warning that the expected improvements will not be enough to bring down unemployment significantly.

The CBI says it expects that: ● Output will rise by about 2.5 per cent next year and 2 per cent in 1987.

● In 1986 and 1987 consumer spending will take over from export sales and private investment as the main stimulus to growth.

● Inflation could fall as low as 3.5 per cent in the spring with the underlying trend showing a 4.5 per cent rate in the second half of 1986.

However, Mr David Wigglesworth, chairman of the CBI's Economic Situation Committee, said: "The forecast of continued growth in the overall



David Wigglesworth: business conditions picking up

economy is encouraging, but the projected increases in output are not expected to be enough to bring down unemployment.

"Business conditions seem to be picking up again after the slowdown of recent months. Better order books are being reported by many companies, though some sectors are facing considerable difficulties."

Mr Wigglesworth also repeated the CBI's recent calls for a lower sterling rate and a cut in interest rates. He said: "The recovery in export business is due in part to the more competitive level of sterling against the Deutschmark. From the peak of DM4.08 to the pound in July it now stands at DM2.74. This is an improvement, although it is still too high."

Fierce competition throughout industry is keeping manufacturers' price increases at the lowest level for 18 years. This is a very positive influence on the projected fall in inflation.

"We must now get interest rates down to the level of our principal competing nations and remove the unnecessary cost burden on British industry."

The CBI adds that its forecasts for the economy are slightly less bullish than those of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, but says the difference is

well within the margin of forecasting error and that in any case economic performance during a period of recovery has tended to be better than expected by most forecasters.

The CBI Scotland's director, Mr John Davidson, has added to the plea for a reduction in interest rates to foreigners way.

"The manufacturing sector appears to be facing problems related to high interest rates. The result has been especially severe for smaller firms whose liquidity has been squeezed by late payment by larger customers. Consequently, a number of new start-ups have found themselves lacking sufficient capital to support customers' credit and have had to go out of business."

Mr Davidson also said that the Government Business Expansion Scheme might have lost momentum in Scotland and that Scottish industry was less optimistic.

## Tap pension surplus to cut taxes, says LBS

By David Smith

Economics Correspondent

The Government could cut the standard rate of income tax by 1.5 pence in the pound a year for 10 years by tapping pension fund surpluses, according to the London Business School.

The school's Financial Outlook, published today, says that such action would be possible within existing legislation and would not fall foul of the Chancellor's promise, at the time of the last Budget, to consult fully before changing pension tax arrangements.

The LBS calculates, on what are described as cautious assumptions, that pension funds have surpluses of £50 billion. This is the excess of what is required to meet pension obligations.

The LBS says that the £50 billion surplus, on pension fund assets of more than £250 billion, is likely to be an underestimate because many funds are valued well below market prices.

Even so, the elimination of pension fund surpluses would have a dramatic effect on both Government and company finances. Over a 10-year period, it would cut industry's labour costs by £5 billion a year. It would also benefit the inland Revenue by £1.75 billion a year, through reductions in tax relief.

The LBS says that all that is required to release this cash is for the inland Revenue to require pension funds to report on the size of their surplus and to insist that they disappear.

There are three ways in which companies can eliminate surpluses on their pension funds.

First, the lump sum claw-back approach, involves a straight cash transfer from the fund to the company. This was attempted by Gommie Holdings, but permission was refused by the inland Revenue. However, Redfern National Glass was allowed to take £1.7 million out of its pension fund.

Second, suspending contributions has been followed by Lucas and, after failing with its lump sum claw-back, Gommie Holdings. A contribution holiday is saving Gommie £150,000 a year until the end of the century.

Third, by enhancing benefits and lump sums paid to members, up to a maximum for which tax relief is obtained. The LBS says that its ideas for getting rid of pension fund surpluses fit in with the Government's tax-cutting ambitions.

## Forex trade 'up to \$150m daily'

Foreign exchange trading is running at \$150 million (£103 million) a day, according to a survey carried out by the Group of Thirty, a New York consultative group on international economic and monetary affairs. This is double the rate of five years ago.

The main reason for the expansion has been the amount of worldwide investment and trade in new financial securities.

The survey was carried out between May and August this year.

## Rapid growth of US debt unsustainable, says Fed

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the US central bank, has urged the adoption of strong collective measures to reform the tax system and lower the federal deficit.

In a report to congress, he said that the unprecedented rise in debt had been triggered in part by the current tax code, which encouraged house holds and businesses to finance purchases with debt rather than with savings or equity.

Mr Volcker's warning came as weary members of the House completed a marathon weekend session in which they agreed on the first substantive tax reform measure to emerge from Congress during President Reagan's presidency.

The broad measure would cut individual taxes by an average of 8.4 per cent and raise corporate taxes by an estimated

\$126 billion over a five-year period.

A vote on the measures will be taken next month.

At the same time, both houses have completed work on a mandatory deficit reduction bill, which has been sent to the White House where it faces a possible veto by Mr Reagan.

The balanced budget amendment would reduce the Federal deficit to \$171 billion in fiscal 1986 and wipe it out by 1991 with equally deep cuts in domestic and defence spending, opposed by Mr Reagan.

The study completed by the Federal Reserve Board said the unprecedented scale of US debt growth since 1981 was destabilising the world economy.

It raised sharply the risk exposure of both individuals and corporations to sudden changes in the economy such as

an unforeseen rise in interest rates, and it raised the spectre of burdensome debt service costs in the future to taxpayers who were financing the credit growth associated with the Federal deficit.

It had led to the vastly increased use of junk bonds, leveraged buyouts, securitized loans and other destabilizing techniques.

The Fed's report said that the magnitude and distribution of risks were not clear.

Mr Volcker, who described the rapid growth of US debt as "unsustainable", said that current trends were incompatible over time with economic and financial stability.

He noted that the percentage increase in outstanding domestic non-financial debt in 1984 was more than 14 per cent, the biggest on record.

## 'Inflation hits poor most'

By Our Economics Correspondent

The poor have been hit hardest by inflation, the Institute for Fiscal Studies says. Poor families lose out when benefits are increased in line with the retail price index.

An article in *Fiscal Studies*, published yesterday, brings out important differences in the effect of inflation on different types of family.

From 1974 to 1982, a period for which full data were available, single people suffered more from inflation than large families. Pensioners and the

unemployed have experienced a bigger cost of living increase than those in work.

The results show that what appeared to be a 23 per cent real rise in the state pension over this period was in fact only an 18 per cent rise. The apparent real increase of 5 per cent in other social security benefits was negligible.

The Institute says that the Government should monitor more closely the inflation experienced by different groups and take this into account

## Harvey Nichols might be sold

Mr Ralph Halpern, chairman and chief executive of The Burton Group, yesterday declined to promise that he would not sell Harvey Nichols, the Knightsbridge department store acquired when Burton took over Debenhams this summer.

In an interview on the Channel Four Business Programme, Mr Halpern was asked if he planned to sell the store. He said: "We hope not. We hope to look carefully at all Debenhams property."

## IN BRIEF

## Imps stake confirmed

Imperial Group, the Embassy cigarettes and Courage beer combine, confirmed yesterday that a 3 per cent stake in the company had been bought by Barclay Brothers, the hotel operators.

But a spokesman refused to comment on reports that Imperial Group was planning a merger with United Biscuits. On Friday Imperial Group completed the sale of Howard Johnson, the American restaurant chain, to Marriott Corporation, the American hotels and leisure group, for \$300 million (£206 million). Marriott has sold Howard Johnson's hotels and motor lodge franchises to Prime Motor Inns of Fairfield, New Jersey, for \$235 million.

## Hoskins seeks BES support

Hoskins Brewery, advised by Oceana Asset Management, the London licensed dealer, is looking for £2.1 million through the Business Expansion Scheme.

Hoskins has been operating at a loss for the past three years, but it is now projecting pretax profits of £48,000 for the year to March 1986, rising to £178,000 in year two and to £302,000 in year three. The projections are based on the maximum subscription being reached.

Hoskins hopes to take on another 18 employees.

## US bank fails

Allen County Bank and Trust of Leo, Indiana, became the 107th United States bank to fail this year, with the weekend announcement by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation that its deposits have been assumed by Indiana National Bank of Indianapolis.

Britain and Japan have agreed to develop jointly an automatic translation telephone which would act as an interpreter between callers, according to an unconfirmed report in the Japanese daily *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*.

## More divers

The number of divers operating in the North Sea has more than doubled since oil production started in 1974, according to the Association of Offshore Diving Contractors, which reports 2,362 "at work" in July.

## Debt warning

Her Fritz Leutwiler, the Swiss mediator in South Africa's efforts to restructure its foreign bank debts, gave a warning in a newspaper interview in Geneva that he expected Pretoria to extend unilaterally its moratorium on repayments on its \$24 billion (£17 billion) foreign debt beyond the end of 1985.

## Thames Water

UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1985.

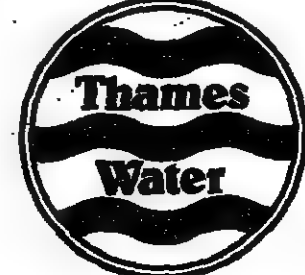
	6 months to 30th September		12 months to 31st March	
	1985	1984	*1986	1985
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Turnover	244.8	223.9	497.9	455.4
Trading Profit	91.7	72.0	182.4	144.8
Interest	(18.9)	(20.6)	(35.2)	(40.0)
Profit after interest	72.8	51.4	147.2	104.8

## NOTES

1. This unaudited statement has been prepared under the same accounting policies used in the statutory accounts for the 12 months ended on 31st March, 1985.
2. Trading profit is stated after charging depreciation on the basis of historical costs.
3. Thames Water is not liable for corporation tax.
- 4.\* The 12 months figures to 31st March, 1986 are forecasts based on expectations in November, 1985.

## STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN, ROY WATTS, C.B.E.

Commenting on the results, Roy Watts, Chairman of Thames Water Authority said, "We have exceeded the first half's profit target through a combination of increased efficiency, improved income collection and success in gaining overseas business. Prospects for the second half are equally as good, notably in the export field. "Between September, 1984 and September, 1985, we repaid £50 million of our outstanding loans, so we are on track to meet all our financial targets for the current year."



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## TEMPUS

# Gilts: traders gamble on the Fed for Christmas

The wine-dark gypsy blood of the discount houses stirred last week. Conquering fears that the Chancellor had unleashed his spending boom too soon, witness the stunning rise in the equity component of the stock market, the Romany element came to the fore, and the traders began plunging in, intermittently at first. But Wednesday was an excellent day for trading.

In overall terms, the picture was one of growing confidence, almost as if the gilt market derived support from the sprightly running of equities.

The Government Broker crowned a satisfying week by producing a tap which left some segments, at least, of the market itching to get their money into the Old Lady's coffers. Working a subtle and imaginative variation on a traditional theme, the Government Broker announced a convertible stock which could be switched either into a medium or a long over the next four years.

The initial attraction of the stock is that broadly it incorporates a gamble on developments in the United States. Assuming that the Federal Reserve acts to cut the discount rate soon, a move which, in turn, ought to weaken the dollar, then the move to cheaper money in the US should help the British monetary authorities to reduce base rates in London.

Such a move should boost the appeal of the shorts, despite their chronic overvaluation relative to money costs, leaving the authorities with a highly geared relationship with gilt yields. A successful sell-out of the tap would push the market ahead still further. Traders would automatically assume that little if any fresh gilt funding would be seen before the new year, granted the proximity of the Cable and Wireless share sale.

Another slightly darker line of counter-argument is also possible. Intuitively, this is predicated on the gut feeling that whenever the authorities offer anything with attractive non-price features, then first they are worried and second the issue is bound to prove expensive.

On this argument, the new tap may prove to be a more exotic way of establishing a stranded position on the book. Conversion 9 per cent, 2000, and Conversion 9½ per cent, 2002 are the bellwether stocks of doom here, whose total issued nominal value is just £6 million. Not a lot of demand for these stocks in the past.

The risk here of course is that the Fed does not after all

cut the discount rate. In that case, traders who buy the tap have very little by way of yield compensation. At the minimum tender price, the yield is in line with the market.

Dr Henry Kaufman, of Salomon Brothers, thinks that the Federal Reserve will cut the rate before Christmas. Other Fed-watchers are not so sure. The Japanese, reportedly, stayed out of the bond market auctions in New York last week, leaving Salomon Brothers possibly with a tale to tell and stock on the book.

Meanwhile, Mr Paul Volcker was making warning noises about the US economy throughout the week. On one occasion, he stated that the Fed would not adopt a cavalier approach to excess monetary growth. In a second speech he pointed out that growth in debt levels and economic growth were mutually incompatible.

Such market preoccupations reveal the extent to which gilts have been Americanized or, indeed, globalized, as the entire structure of the London fixed-interest market is brought increasingly into line with world bond market movements. Also clear from other data surfacing recently is that any reliance in future by the authorities on domestic data, should external factors turn sour, will be well nigh impossible to orchestrate.

The Chancellor made it very clear that EM3 has been suspended, at least until the spring. This year's Financial Statistics Conference, organized by the Bank of England, made it equally obvious that the quality of official data on which the bulk of recent policy decisions have been based was highly suspect.

Mr Alec Grayson, head of the Committee of London and Scottish Bankers' Statistical Unit, set the tone of the conference by assessing the quality of financial statistics used by the gilt market.

Less than 13 per cent of the entries in the country's financial accounts attract grade "A", roughly 33 per cent are graded "reliable", 35 per cent "less reliable", while just under a fifth fall into D category. Mr Grayson pointed out that the majority of D grade financial variables fall into those sectors traditionally attracting the greatest public attention - the personal sector figures, and accounts for the industrial and commercial sector. Obtaining good financial data from the personal sector is virtually impossible, he claimed.

He also cast doubt on the reliability, in interpretative terms, of the make-up of the

monthly monetary statistics, after reminding his audience that as from October 1986 banks have agreed to switch to end-of-month reporting for all statistical reporting, a change which will have marked consequences on the banks' reporting procedures. Mr Grayson's comments on the advisability of including the Banking Department of the Bank of England within the retail banks' sector are worth quoting:

"At the time the definition was agreed, the enormous growth in the banking department's holding of commercial bills was not foreseen, and it seems to make little sense to lump together under one heading the clearing banks' holdings and the (Bank's) bill holdings. Separation of the banking and issue departments which has some internal logic for the Bank of England, is not sensible in the flow of funds statistics... It would be better to have a consolidated central bank sector... which could be aggregated or disaggregated from the rest of the public sector accounting."

Quite so, opine the poor analysts in the gilt market. In an impressive *tour d'horizon*, Mr Peter Bull, of the Bank's Financial Statistics Division, found flaws in nearly all the monetary data which until quite recently formed the basis of policy planning. Noting the fact that all the monetary aggregates have been affected by regulatory changes, intensity of competition and new technology, Mr Bull then assessed the value of the separate monetary data. Paying interest on sight accounts reduces the appeal of M1 as a measure of transactions balances; EM3 is affected by competition between banks and building societies.

Noting also the maverick behaviour of the velocity of money in circulation, prompted partly by the extension of the Treasury function in large companies, Mr Bull concluded that the breakdown of traditional barriers among financial institutions will result in the emergence of conglomerates, where it will be increasingly difficult to distinguish between banks and other credit generating institutions.

Against such a background, it looks increasingly unlikely that the authorities will attempt any return in the spring to the concept of monetary controls which gilt traders have known in the past. This kind of vacuum in domestic policy formation is worth bearing in mind, as the market focuses its attention on even more volatile external factors.

# New issue bandwagon gathers pace

With the share markets so strong it is not surprising that the USM's bandwagon of new issues is rolling merrily along.

Last week the junior market greeted three newcomers and another trio is due to make its debut today. A further five placings are expected this week and at least another two companies are ready to go.

Those close to the market believe there could be 10 more new issues before the year end. If their expectations are realized the market will end 1985 comfortably above 350.

Allowing for graduations to the full market, takeovers and suspensions, there have been nearly 450 floatations since the USM was started just over five years ago.

Last week's newcomers made cheerful starts. Most prominent was World of Leather, the furniture retailer. The shares, placed by the broker Simon & Coates at 128p, were helped by rumours of a share stake build-up and moved impressively ahead, closing on Friday at 163p. Cheshire Wholefoods, which makes mussels and other foods, is now 129p against the 110p placing by Earnshaw, Haes & Sons, the broker. Sterling Publishing Group, sponsored by Industrial Finance and Investment Corporation, is 71p compared with a 57p placing price.

Today's collection should produce three more encouraging starts.

Millward Brown, a market research agency, has been placed at 160p a share by the ever-active Simon & Coates. Profits climbed from £221,000 in 1980 to £508,000 in the year to the end of March, for the current year £870,000 is forecast.

Snowden & Bridge, which supplies food and non-food items to the catering industry, is a 97p a share placing by Henry Cooke, Lumsden. Profits jumped from £117,000 in 1981 to £704,000 in the year to the end of January, and £850,000 is forecast for this year.

West Yorkshire Independent Hospital, of Bingley, is the first USM floatation by Granville & Co, the licensed dealer running the largest over-the-counter share market in terms of capitalization.

The shares have been placed at 90p. The company lost £29,000 in 1982, made £448,000 in the year to last June and expects to achieve £520,000 in the current year.

This week shares of Chart Foulks Lynch, Dialene, Cranswick Mill Group, Crusts and JS Pathology are due to be placed.

Fielding, Newson-Smith & Co, the broker, is launching Chart Foulks Lynch, which offers correspondence and tuition courses.

De Zoete & Bevan is the broker placing Dialene shares. The company, started in 1948 by Mr Henry Isen, the chair-

man, makes plastic products ranging from flower pots and folding draining racks for the kitchen to children's toys.

Profits for the year to May were £614,000. There is no forecast but sales are said to be about 30 per cent above last year's. The shares are expected to be placed at around 125p, representing about 11 times last year's earnings.

Cranswick Mill Group, an animal feed supplier and pig breeder, is arriving through a placing by Lloyds Bank and James Capel & Co, the broker. The company made profits of £78,000 in 1981 and £683,000 in the year to March.

Crusts, which has 14 restaurants and a hotel, is being placed by Hitchens, Harrison & Co, the broker. The shares have been traded under rule 535.

JS Pathology is unlike any other quoted company. It runs Britain's leading clinical pathology laboratory. Profits were £325,000 in 1981 and are forecast to be £1.9 million for the year ending next March.

The company was created in 1958 by Miss Jean Shanks, chairman and chief executive. Her husband Prince Yuri Galitzine, a public relations consultant, is a director and company secretary. Grieseson,

Grant & Co, the broker, will be placing shares.

The two other companies on the USM launch pad are the Jacques Vert fashion house from Simon & Coates and Technical Component Industries.

However, although the new issue business is booming, the USM's share performance, as measured by the Datastream index, remains subdued. The index closed at 108.91 points on Friday, way below its peak. The USM's large electrical content has tended to delay progress.

Hoare Govett, the broker, has pointed out that the value of USM electronic companies fell

from £516 million to £339 million in the year to September.

With electronics now showing signs of recovering the USM index could rally sharply.

Hoare Govett said that the USM historic p/e has dwindled to 17 and the prospect is now about 13, narrowing the difference between it and the main market. New issue premiums, it added, have also fallen.

Since March last year about 57 per cent of floatations achieved a 10 per cent premium or less. About 22 per cent did not manage a premium or went to a discount.

Derek Pain

## UNLISTED SECURITIES

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Gross Div	Yield	P/E	Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Gross Div	Yield	P/E	Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Gross Div	Yield	P/E
£		Week		div	%		£		Week		div	%		£		Week		div	%	
8,891,000	A&M Co	100	-1	6.0	3.2	16.7	6,959,000	Camden	100	+0.2	4.0	3.8	15.0	13,170	Charm Abroad	100	-0.2	12.0	12.0	12.0
4,071,000	ATA Airlines	100	-0.5	2.0	4.3	14.0	40,400	Cardinals	127	-0.2	3.8	8.7	20.8	1,000,000	FCI	100	-0.2	4.0	4.0	14.0
7,000,000	Avco Corp	100	-0.5	2.0	4.3	14.0	4,000,000	Charm Abroad	100	-0.2	12.0	12.0	12.0	1,000,000	FCI	100	-0.2	4.0	4.0	14.0
7,000,000	Avco Corp	100	-0.5	2.0	4.3	14.0	1,881,000	Charm Abroad	100	-0.2	12.0	12.0	12.0	1,000,000	FCI	100	-0.2	4.0	4.0	14.0
1,000,000	Avco Corp	100	-0.5	2.0	4.3	14.0	2,330,000	Charm Abroad	100	-0.2	12.0	12.0	12.0	1,000,000	FCI	100	-0.2	4.0	4.0	14.0
1,000,000	Avco Corp	100	-0.5	2.0	4.3	14.0	2,330,000	Charm Abroad	100	-0.2	12.0	12.0	12.0	1,000,000	FCI	100	-0.2	4.0	4.0	14.0
1,000,000	Avco Corp	100	-0.5	2.0	4.3	14.0	2,330,000	Charm Abroad	100	-0.2	12.0	12.0	12.0	1,000,000	FCI	100	-0.2	4.0	4.0	14.0
1,000,000	Avco Corp	100	-0.5	2.0	4.3	14.0	2,330,000	Charm Abroad	100	-0.2	12.0	12.0	12.0	1,000,000	FCI	100	-0.2	4.0	4.0	14.0
1,000,000	Avco Corp	100	-0.5	2.0	4.3	14.0	2,330,000	Charm Abroad	100	-0.2	12.0	12.0	12.0	1,000,000	FCI	100	-0.2	4.0	4.0	14.0
1,000,000	Avco Corp	100	-0.5	2.0	4.3	14.0	2,330,000	Charm Abroad	100	-0.2	12.0	12.0	12.0	1,000,000	FCI	100	-0.2	4.0	4.0	14.0
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1,000,000	Avco Corp	100	-0.5	2.0	4.3															





ABBOTT MEAD VICKERS PLC  
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THE TIMES  
Portfolio

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No.	Company	Price last Friday	Change on week	Gross Div. pence	% P/E
1	Barratt Devs	17.00	+0.125	1.50	11.3
2	Countrywide	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
3	Glencon (MD)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
4	Atwoods	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
5	Bellway	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
6	McAlpine (Aired)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
7	Meyer Int	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
8	Emm	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
9	PFA Industries	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
10	Lilly (PAC)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
11	ELC	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
12	Cap Gp	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
13	BICC	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
14	Grosvener	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
15	Audio Fidelity	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
16	Barclays	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
17	Micro BS	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
18	MIRA	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
19	Whitworth Etc	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
20	Douglas & Mils	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
21	FOODS	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
22	Tesco	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
23	Glass Glycer	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
24	Regent	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
25	Faber (Albert)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
26	ASDA (MFI)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
27	RHM	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
28	Halford Rides	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
29	Nitin Foods	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
30	Unigate	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
31	Bar (A/C)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
32	INDUSTRIALS A-D	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
33	AAH	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
34	Avon Rubber	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
35	Barnard (S&W)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
36	Clemens	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
37	Baby UK	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
38	Ernst Nicholson	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
39	BBA	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
40	Baker Perkins	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
41	Bevan (DF)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
42	Redrose	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0

Weekly dividend  
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEK

## BRITISH FUNDS

Stock on which fund is based

Stock	Price last Friday	Change on week	Gross Div. pence	% P/E
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## SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Stock	Price last Friday	Change on week	Gross Div. pence	% P/E
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## FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Stock	Price last Friday	Change on week	Gross Div. pence	% P/E
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## OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Stock	Price last Friday	Change on week	Gross Div. pence	% P/E
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## UNDATED

Stock	Price last Friday	Change on week	Gross Div. pence	% P/E
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## INDEX-LINKED

Stock	Price last Friday	Change on week	Gross Div. pence	% P/E
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## BREWERIES

Stock	Price last Friday	Change on week	Gross Div. pence	% P/E
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## BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Stock	Price last Friday	Change on week	Gross Div. pence	% P/E
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES  
Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Today. Dealings End, Dec 6. Contango Day, Dec 9. Settlement Day, Dec 16.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

Capitalization	Company	Price last Friday	Change on week	Gross Div. pence	% P/E
1,168.00	Barratt Devs	17.00	+0.125	1.50	11.3
1,168.00	Countrywide	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Glencon (MD)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Atwoods	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Bellway	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	McAlpine (Aired)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Meyer Int	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Emm	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	PFA Industries	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Lilly (PAC)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	ELC	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Cap Gp	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	BICC	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Grosvener	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Audio Fidelity	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Barclays	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Micro BS	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	MIRA	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Whitworth Etc	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Douglas & Mils	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	FOODS	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Tesco	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Glass Glycer	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Regent	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Faber (Albert)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	ASDA (MFI)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	RHM	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Halford Rides	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Nitin Foods	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Unigate	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Bar (A/C)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	INDUSTRIALS A-D	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	AAH	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Avon Rubber	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Barnard (S&W)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Clemens	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Baby UK	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Ernst Nicholson	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	BBA	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Baker Perkins	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Bevan (DF)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Redrose	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0

## BUILDING AND ROADS

Capitalization	Company	Price last Friday	Change on week	Gross Div. pence	% P/E
1,168.00	Barratt Devs	17.00	+0.125	1.50	11.3
1,168.00	Countrywide	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Glencon (MD)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Atwoods	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Bellway	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	McAlpine (Aired)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Meyer Int	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Emm	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	PFA Industries	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Lilly (PAC)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	ELC	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Cap Gp	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	BICC	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Grosvener	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Audio Fidelity	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Barclays	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Micro BS	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	MIRA	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Whitworth Etc	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Douglas & Mils	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	FOODS	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Tesco	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Glass Glycer	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Regent	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Faber (Albert)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	ASDA (MFI)	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	RHM	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
1,168.00	Halford Rides	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0
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1,168.00	Redrose	1.00	+0.0125	0.05	20.0

## FINANCE AND LAND

54.0m	Heywood Williams	160	-2	8.8	6.4
50m	Higgs & Hill	440	0	18.3	4.1
109.5m	Barstock Johnson	178	0	3.1	2.4
2,864.0m	James Ltd & Sons	320	-10	26.8	8.9
32.1m	James	320	+10	8.9	8.9
37.5m	De'A	255	+10	4.9	2.7
17.4m	Lawrence (Walker)	80	+1	4.9	4.4
63.3m	Lilly (F&C)	79	0	1.3	1.7
68.9m	Lovell (F&C)	314	+14	8.8	2.8
371.7m	Magnett & South	130	+10	1.7	4.5
27.4m	Mandarin	80	0	10.8	5.5
60.3m	Marquies (Hulton)	100	-2	4.4	3.9
8,363.0m	Mey & Henson	150	0	3.4	3.2
1.15m	Miles (Allard)	100	0	4.4	3.2



## ORDINARY SHARES

## Monopolies report sends small brewers reeling

The curious and mischievous report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into the proposed takeover of the new Brown by Scottish & Newcastle Breweries has had a devastating effect on the shares of some of Matthew Brown's rival regional brewers.

It was curious because it gave the most grudging approval to the takeover, now being fought all over again eight months after the original approach. It was mischievous because the authors of the report wrongly took it upon themselves to prejudice any future attempts by national brewers to acquire their regional counterparts. There would be a strong case against any such plans, they said.

Takeover hopes have long been built into the share prices of the regionals in the belief that some day they will be mopped up. That day was at the very least pushed back by the monopolies report.

Some of the shares were little affected by the strictures. Four, however, were still nursing wounds at the end of the week. 10 days after the report was published, they are Burtonwood Brewery, Greene King & Sons, Vaux Group and Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries.

The received wisdom for the attack on this quartet is that they are more open to takeover than their peers, and the price reduction is simply a removal of the bid premium.

But it is not quite as straightforward as that. Burtonwood, in Lancashire, is 37 per cent controlled by the directors and there are substantial other holdings by family connections of the board. Also, the share price has been taken to a point where its rating is noticeably lower than, say, Belhaven Breweries Group. Vaux Group UK is confined to a 29 per cent stake.

Another measure of the regional brewers' worth is to look at the replacement value of their public houses, which are usually the companies' prime attraction for predators.

It is reckoned in the trade that a pub now costs £300,000 to build and fit, assuming that it is of a decent size in a reasonable location such as the traditional corner site.

## What the Monopolies report did to brewers' shares

	12 Nov	13 Nov	Nov	%	p/e
Burtonwood	530	520	475	11.1	
Greene King	244	225	212	15.3	
Vaux	405	370	371	3.9	15.4
Wolverhampton & Dudley	406	371	375	3	16.2

However, taking a more conservative £200,000 for each existing pub that a bidder might want to refurbish, some of the regionals are still seriously undervalued. Burtonwood has 290 outlets, giving an overall price of £58 million, compared with the current market capitalization of £25 million, and a published net asset value of slightly less than that.

A similar exercise on Greene King's 776 outlets gives £155 million, nearly twice the company's stock market value. The directors and family have 24 per cent of the shares, while Guinness has 5 per cent.

Wolverhampton & Dudley has about the same number of pubs as Greene King and a market cap of £120 million. The only substantial share stake is held by Britannia Assurance of Birmingham, which has 6.4 per cent.

The exception of the four is Vaux. Its shares are worth nearly £150 million. It has 580 pubs, worth £116 million at £200,000 apiece, and its 32 hotels could be more fairly priced at £300,000, making another £16 million.

This does not quite match the market capitalization, although it is well ahead of the published additions at cost. There are also 140 off-licences in the group.

I am indebted to L. Messel & Co's Director of Regional Breweries for these statistics. Messel's research team picks out the following as worth following on trading grounds: Boddingtons, Greenall Whitley, Marston, Thompson & Evershed and the USM-quoted Fuller, Smith & Turner. All are protected from takeovers.

The next few weeks should see the proof of some of those recommendations, as the brewing results season begins. Profits will have been diluted by this year's soggy summer. Lager sales have kept up, but the regional brewers' commitment

to "real" ale has restricted their exposure to that.

However, Panmure Gordon & Co argues that Vaux has taken the right steps to correct this imbalance with the success of its Tuborg lager. This should restrict any fall in the second, summer, half compared with the first six months.

But the increase in profits may be confined to £1.5 million on last year's £13 million because of fewer property disposals. Panmure is going for £16.3 million next year, thanks largely to a higher contribution from the upgraded hotels division.

Wolverhampton & Dudley should also reveal a useful profits growth of about 12 per cent as a result of its policy of acquiring pubs and a Midlands audience which appreciates the group's competitive prices.

The stock market audience has shown its own kind of appreciation by driving the shares' p/e ratio up to 16, where it will be expecting the company to maintain a strong performance in the absence of a bid.

Monopolies reports may come and go, but the trend towards the rationalization of the brewing industry appears to be irresistible. Much will hang on the outcome of the battle between Allied-Lyons and Eider IXL, but it seems certain that sooner or later there will be a renewed assault on the regionals, possibly from outside the industry.

William Kay  
City Editor

## APPOINTMENTS

Fletcher King Mr Tim Fleet is to be an associate partner.

Northern Engineering Industries: Mr Michael Humphreys has joined the main board as managing director, overseas group.

F. H. Tomkins: Mr J. G. Sanger and Mr David Stark become operating directors of two new reporting divisions.

Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company: Mr Kenneth McCracken has been named a vice-president.

John Records: Mr Clive Bank is to be managing director.

Epigram Associates: Mr Ian Menzies has been made financial director.

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Citibank NA 11 1/2%  
1 Mortgage Base Rate.

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ABN Bank 11 1/2%  
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Co-operative Bank 11 1/2%  
C. Hoare & Co 11 1/2%  
Lloyds Bank 11 1/2%  
Natl Westminster 11 1/2%  
Rothschild 11 1/2%  
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1 Mortgage Base Rate.

## ADVERTISING















Trade 01-278 9161/5

## LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

It's about  
the secretarial  
profession.  
Our level of  
expertise is  
second to none.  
Just like  
you.

**Bernadette  
of Bond St.**

In the Bleak mid-winter,  
things look far from bleak.

● Proven secretarial and WP skills  
● Commercial experience  
● Available immediately  
● Initiative and flair  
If these qualities apply to you, then we can offer the best assignments all year round, and pay you the top rates throughout the winter months. Our clients don't hibernate when the bad weather comes, so why should you?  
Contact Victoria Martin on  
01 499 9175.

**MacBlain  
Temporary  
Secretaries**  
Recruitment Consultants  
28 Newbury Square London W2R 6AL



## Santé!

**to £10,000**  
This is an excellent new position, within the HQ of a major water and spirits group. As PA/Secretary to the newly-appointed Director of Overseas Operations you will be centrally involved in matters affecting corporate strategy at group board-level. You will also handle liaison with overseas subsidiaries, visitors' hospitality and a full diary of engagements and travel. Fluent French is essential (for telephone work, correspondence etc), along with at least some senior level experience. Excellent shorthand and typing also required. WP acc. purchased to suit your preference. Age 22+. Please telephone 01-493 5787.  
Gordon Yates Ltd.  
35 Old Bond Street,  
London W1  
(Recruitment Consultants)

## Chalice

**OPPORTUNITY IN FR**  
An opening has arisen for a competent Displaywriter operator to join a well-known FR Company as secretary to a young/dynamic Design Director and her team. In addition to an attractive salary, the Company provides first class fringe benefits.  
**FRENCH COSMETIC HOUSE**  
An experienced IBM Displaywriter operator with sound reportkeeping knowledge is required for long term temporary booking.  
**TEMPORARY SECRETARIES-UP TO £7 PH**  
For Director-level secretaries with minimum skills of 100/60 and advanced WP knowledge on the IBM Displaywriter or the IBM PC using Displaywrite II, Multimate or Wordstar 2000 software.  
**WP TRAINING**  
We offer personal tuition on the IBM Displaywriter and the IBM PC. Our courses can be geared to clients particular requirements and can be run here or at your own premises. For further information please telephone Paula Spence or Velecia Wright.

Sheer Luxury  
£9,000

Do you like to feel well looked after? Our clients business is property investment, in which they are highly successful. They also - co-incidentally - believe in giving their staff the very best. They now seek a young secretary to work with their Chief Executive. You will help to organise travel, meetings, diary etc. In addition, you will look after 'general' admin including office lunches and liaison with chauffeurs. Excellent benefits include membership of sports and social clubs. Good presentation and confident shorthand/typing required. Age 22+. Please telephone 01-493 5787.  
Gordon Yates Ltd.  
35 Old Bond Street,  
London W1  
(Recruitment Consultants)

No Frills  
to £11,000

Our client is the dynamic young MD of a major name in management recruitment. He needs for a confident, lively and extremely competent secretary. Your role will thus relate entirely to his requirements: looking after all correspondence, organising diary, meetings, travel etc and generally making sure that his life at work runs as smoothly as possible. You should have A-level standard of education, a sound word record and excellent shorthand/typing. An interest in computers and some WP experience is also desirable. Age 22-35. Please telephone 01-493 5787.  
Gordon Yates Ltd.  
35 Old Bond Street,  
London W1  
(Recruitment Consultants)

HIGHLY EXCLUSIVE  
to £9,000

Join this very prestigious fashion magazine as secretary to an Editor. You should have excellent spelling and grammar in order to check copy and be very well organised to help run the busy office. 100/60 skills needed.  
**WINTER FASHIONS**  
A brand new fashion group needs a secretary to their merchandise director. He travels the world buying and researching the latest fashion trends and needs a real assistant. Excellent prospects and superb benefit package. 90/50 skills needed.  
City 01-240 3551  
West End 01-240 3531/3531  
**Elizabeth Hunt**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CHALLENGE IN  
STOCKBROKING  
package £11,000 +

Involvement & responsibility is your brief as PA to the head of investment research. You will be confident & well spoken with an excellent command of English & a level of education to match. Good typing & shorthand skills are essential as are the ability to arrange social meetings, cocktail parties, conferences & seminars. The working environment is stimulating & happy. A ideal for the career minded PA. Ideal for age 22-28.  
**STELLA FISHER**  
11 STRAND WC2 01-836 8888

## Looking for a challenge?

**Calling all second jobbers**  
OVER 500000 - UP TO £12,000 PA  
This friendly Co is looking for a secretary to a partner to start immediately. Must be prepared to undertake an evening/night shift. Good secretarial skills (100/60 + WP).  
**SWI MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS - £1200 PA**  
Dynamic with WP 100/60 + WP. Must be a team player and have a professional attitude and the telephone work and admin skills.  
**SWI EXECUTIVE SEARCH CO - £1200 PA**  
Call secretary for this job. As a PA to a partner you will be helping them in their office. Must have excellent skills and use the Office 2000.  
Come to visit us at 111 Strand, London WC2R 0AH or call 01-222 4477. A team player.

## RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

A Specialist Recruitment Consultancy in the West End wishes to appoint a self-motivated experienced executive to be responsible for a newly created secretarial placement division. Salary plus participation will be negotiated. Tel: Miss Hyde on 438 1701 during the day or evening.

## FUTURES &amp; FINANCIAL

**THE WORK SHOP**  
**Hot Design**  
£9,500  
High-flying young team of designers seeks Admin/Sec to 'run the office'.  
You will organise meetings, handle client queries and solve problems as they arise whilst giving secretarial support to 2 directors.  
Good audio/sh typing, and sound word record required. Age 22+.  
Please telephone 01-409 1232 for further details.  
Recruitment Consultants

ADMIN FLAIR  
25-50

**£9,300 + PROFIT SHARE**  
As Secretary to the Group Legal Controller of this prestigious W1 fashion group, you will spend 50% of your day on admin & 50% on your professional secretarial skills including WP. An excellent command of English & an outgoing friendly personality are also important.  
**STELLA FISHER**  
11 STRAND WC2 01-836 8888  
WORD PROCESSING DIVISION

## FLEET STREET

**SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST** for busy Computer Company. WANG WP (Full training). Fast accurate typing. 25-35. Good education. £7,000-7,750.  
**SENIOR SECRETARY** with above qualifications to supervise three secretaries and control office admin. £7,750-£8,500.  
6 FRIAR CHURCH, MYRAD LTD.  
38 Fleet St. London EC4

## SHOW BUSINESS PA SECRETARY

Show business PR Company is looking for a capable efficient Secretary/Administrator to control shorthand/typing, essential. Small busy office friendly atmosphere. Salary £8,000 neg. Please send CV to:  
Judy Telford Associates  
7 Floral St, W1C 0JH  
Tel 01-244 7582

PERSONNEL PA/ASSISTANT  
£9,500 + Mortgage

Expanding North American Bank urgently require a bright, self motivated Secretary to provide secretarial and administrative support to two busy Personnel Managers. Candidates must possess the ability to work to deadlines and have excellent secretarial skills (100/60) together with organisational flair. A sense of humour is also of prime importance. 'A' level education preferred. Age 24/30.  
**FUND MANAGERS PA**  
£8,000  
Exclusive Merchant Bank requires an Administrator to provide support to three Fund Managers who deal exclusively with high net worth Private Clients. Candidates must be educated to at least 'A' level standard, possess typing skills and have a 'City' background. The position demands a high level of confidence and flexibility plus the ability to deal with executives at all levels. Age 19+.  
For further details please call  
**PS 236 1113 (24 hrs)**  
PORTMAN RECRUITMENT SERVICES

PA to Editor  
£10,000

Newly appointed editor of highly successful international business magazine needs a PA with excellent skills (100/60 + WP) and with experience in publishing.

Employee Relations  
£28,500++

Senior Executive in consultancy specialising in employee incentives seeks a PA who enjoys client liaison and organisation administration. Skills 90/50 + WP. Age 24+.

Magazine Publishing  
£28,000

MD of the major magazine publishers seeks a lively PA/Sec. You can expect involvement and advancement if you are a graduate with 1 year + experience and 9/50 audio skills.

## Graduate College Leaver

We have opportunities for graduates with secretarial skills and a high degree of motivation in many areas of commerce. You should be willing to take on responsibility and use your initiative.

Temps  
First class skills? We can offer you exciting assignments and high rewards - immediately.GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS  
7 PRINCES STREET, W1. 01-629 7222

## LINK Personnel

**GOOD RELATIONS**  
£11,000  
This is an excellent opportunity for a bright, self motivated and highly organised, confident communications staff to join a good shorthand and typing plus a good word record.

SECRETARY IN PERSONNEL  
to £20,000

Assist the Personnel Officer in the recruitment of a busy Personnel Dept. Very varied duties, contact with Agencies and all senior members. You will be a good shorthand, a good typist, a good organiser and have a pleasant outgoing personality. Experience in this field would be an asset. 40 rpm typing.

PUBE RECEPTION  
£2,000

An extremely smart, well spoken young Receptionist is required to join the reception team at a busy club and provide a cheerful and professional atmosphere in the reception area.  
232 Regent Street, London, W1 (By Oxford Circus). 01-434 5487

Pamela Dickens  
recruitment consultants  
TEMPORARIES!

We urgently need staff for our London branches. In particular:  
Clerk/Typist - £4,500  
Copy secretaries - £4,500  
Tel/Exec. some with typing - from £4,500  
Gladys/Writer + shorthand - £500  
Wang/Secretaries some with shorthand - £500  
Oliveri 351 + shorthand - £500  
Chief staff, well educated - from £3,400 to £4,500  
Audio secretary for property consultant (Holloway). Two temp-perm secretaries. Please send CV to: 01-435 1478/6 (6 appointments daily) 101 1 Lane, Brompton, London W1X 1TB

A CREATIVE CAREER  
£9,500

Join this exciting and rapidly expanding company as a secretary in their managing director's office. Good administrative skills and a good word record are essential. Fantastic office and superb social atmosphere. 100/60 skills and previous WP experience essential.

WT PROPERTIES  
£10,000

This is a superb opportunity to join a leading W1 property company as a secretary in their managing director's office. Good administrative skills and a good word record are essential. Fantastic office and superb social atmosphere. 100/60 skills and previous WP experience essential.  
City 01-240 3551  
West End 01-240 3531/3531  
**Elizabeth Hunt**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CHELSEA  
ESTATE AGENTS

Requires experienced Secretary with top shorthand and typing skills to help run busy office. Good telephone manner and outgoing personality essential for client liaison, together with good organisational ability and sense of humour.  
Salary £9,000-£10,000.  
Please telephone  
01-581 3022.

MARKETING  
TO £10,000

Outstanding qualities include excellent communication skills for press & public affairs. If you enjoy a challenge and like to work with a well known international Organisation, please send your CV to:  
01-588 5081  
**MIDDLETON**  
RECRUITMENT LTD.

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Job satisfaction & superb conditions offered to experienced secretary 5/7 willing to become involved in financial side of flourishing W. End Property Co. Excellent perks & salary.  
See Confidential Secretarial Appointments  
229 2058/221 5173

PA SECRETARY  
to £10,000, SW3

Reliable Trade Association agent & qualified secretarial Sec. 27+, study work record, can see skills 100/60 audio skills, pleasant personality, good education, stable, loyal, hardworking duties.  
Please ring 387 5612  
Catch 22 Emp Agt

ORGANISER  
£10,000

We are looking for an exceptional person - a top S/H PA with a VIBRANT personality to assist the Vice-President of the American Video/Film Co. He's young, progressive, and on schedule. You'll be the same. Fun job.

abbatt  
01-837 3676COSEMTICS  
£23,000

Bright & bubbly director level S/H sec required for this international Cosmetics house in Mayfair. Use your excellent admin & organisational skills in this busy environment. Lots of scope to progress with the company. Salary benefits & perks.

abbatt  
01-837 3676PRESTIGE PA's  
Financial Consultants  
£10,500

You have the drive and initiative to really get involved in International Finance? This successful team of consultants will use 100% of your resources. Working with clients and contact from Singapore to the Isle of Man, organising conferences, seminars (and everything in between), running the office, using the computer, and still find the energy for a superb typing, charming office in Hampstead. Lovely guy. Small team. Age 24-40. Full audio, WP, shorthand knowledge.

American Stockbroker, EC3  
£9,500 + lge bonus

Professional young director with a relaxed, civilised personality is looking for an equally professional PA. You will be closely involved with the New York Stock Exchange, and have the potential to take the stock exchange course. Very thorough and very professional. Excellent salary, your excellent telephone manner important for client contact, and your sense of humour essential when the pressure's on. Age 21-30. A level education, non-smoker.

Venture Capital, EC2  
To £10,000

Senior Executive of this dynamic company is setting up a new investment programme and needs you to provide secretarial support. As well as demanding secretarial duties you will be involved in stocks and shares, financial reports and investment procedures, all on your own initiative. Shorthand and WP acc essential, but as important is a willing flexible personality. Age 22+, non-smoker.

Love+Tate  
283 0011Ask Alfred Marks.  
Tired of endless commuting?  
Earn a London salary in  
Ilford...

A large electronic company is in urgent need of a bi-lingual secretary with French and two personal assistants with shorthand.  
If you would like to earn a minimum of £8,000 pa, enjoy five weeks holiday plus other perks, phone now...  
01-533 0821  
56 Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex

## ALFRED MARKS Recruitment Consultants

THE Ritz  
PA IN PERSONNEL  
£10,000 + MORT

Exciting career at a senior level & career progression into an administrative role. You will be responsible for the personnel department of a leading company. You will be dealing with all personnel matters, including recruitment, training, discipline, and all other personnel matters. You will be responsible for the personnel department of a leading company. You will be dealing with all personnel matters, including recruitment, training, discipline, and all other personnel matters.

GRADUATE OPPORTUNITY  
£9,000

An excellent career move for a graduate with a degree in a relevant subject. You will be responsible for the personnel department of a leading company. You will be dealing with all personnel matters, including recruitment, training, discipline, and all other personnel matters.

THE CITY UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL  
PERSONAL ASSISTANT

A Personal Assistant is required to provide secretarial support to the Director and the General Manager of the above centre. The Centre, which is part of the Business School, is situated in new premises in the Barbican Centre and is responsible for the organisation of high quality short courses for business and professional people. Duties will also include organising meetings, social functions and managing the Marketing Manager with the department of information and contacting speakers. Applications should have good secretarial skills including shorthand and audio and possess a fair for organisation. Experience in a commercial environment is preferable together with the ability to deal with senior visitors. Benefits include season ticket bus scheme, generous holiday entitlement and excellent sports and recreational facilities. For further details and an application form please write to: Ms Jane Cawson, Personnel Recruitment Assistant, The City University, Northampton Square, London EC1Y 8BB, or telephone 01-252 1107 (4 lines, no answer service). Closing date for receipt of applications: 15th December, 1985.

BANKING PA SECRETARY  
£9,000 + 3% MORTGAGE

A rare opportunity has arisen within this leading City merchant bank, for a well-educated S/H SEC, ideally 22-35 yrs, seeking a genuine career position. 100% involvement offered both in administration and research, supporting 2 busy young directors. To discuss this post in further detail please call in confidence:  
Mrs May, ACME APTTS,  
34 Cannon Street, EC4,  
01-623 3663

## PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Mature PA required to work for Director & General Manager of a trade association in Belgium. This is the senior secretarial post in the organisation handling varied & interesting work. Full range of secretarial skills essential. Salary negotiable about £9,500 plus usual benefits. Please write enclosing CV to:  
Miss J. Carter  
British Pacific Federation  
5 Belgrave Square  
London SW1X 8PH  
Please mark envelope private & confidential No Agencies

## LITERARY AGENTS

A wonderful opportunity for a young, bright, energetic person to join a busy, friendly literary agent's office in the heart of the West End. A career and profit share in addition to a generous salary of £2,000 make this a very attractive proposition. Minimum 40 wpm typing.

JOAN TREE  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS  
39 FLORAL STREET WC2  
01-838 3888HODGEE  
RECRUITMENT

**YOUNG SECRETARIES**  
to £10,000 + BENEFITS  
Take the first step towards management. This is a PA role within a highly successful organisation, with your charm & initiative. You will be working with both clients & business associates while handling all the administrative work for the MD's office. Age 22-35 with 90/60 speeds.

PA/SEC  
required for private international research institute, to strengthen support for Director. Start and be right hand to Director of Studies. Audio but no shorthand required. Education to A level desirable. Sound WP experience essential. Preferred age 23-30.

Apply Staff Director, IBM, 23 Tavistock Street, London WC2E 7NG.

## AUDIO TYPIST

Age 20-22 required for busy friendly West End firm of chartered surveyors. Fast accurate typing and good telephone manner are essential. Will train on WP. Salary £7,500 neg. 4 weeks holiday.  
Please call Helen on  
01-486 7067  
(No Agencies)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
(25-45 yrs)

To meet Senior Director of luxury goods, specialist sales, financial and a second language an advantage. A very interesting post combining good shorthand with typing with administrative skills. Ability to deal with people at all levels. Salary £8,500 p.a. 5/11, health and pension scheme, excellent staff restaurant. VERONICA LARA 027 6225

SPORTS  
23+ £7,500

Young S/H sec with top skills needed now by top UK sports admin group. Use your initiative and flair in this busy young international company you must be well organised and have a strong interest in sports.

abbatt  
01-837 3676PERSONNEL  
£8,000

Don't miss this... excellent S/H sec required for the personnel department of this superb leisure company. Responsible, involved position - lots of admin and organisation plus scope to progress with the company. Salary benefits & perks.

abbatt  
01-837 3676GERMAN  
Ein Unternehmen im Maschinenbau sucht eine erfahrene Sekretaria (26+)

mit perfekten Deutsch- und Englischkenntnissen. Diese Position umfasst nicht nur die übliche Sekretariatsarbeit, sondern auch verschiedene verantwortungsvolle Aufgaben. Selbständiges & dynamisches Arbeiten sowie E + D Kurschrift sind unbedingt erforderlich. Läng 8,500-10,000+.

PORT/SPANISH  
Prestigious City Company within the financial world requires a Senior Executive PA/Sec to work for their Director. Knowledge of Portuguese and/or Spanish is an advantage. Fast skills (including English shorthand) and a smart appearance are essential requirements for this position. Age 23-35 Salary: £10,000+
FRENCH/DUTCH  
A smart and efficient Secretary is required to work for an International Finance Company in the City. Fast and accurate shorthand and typing in English as well as the ability to organise a varied and sometimes hectic workload are essential requirements. Knowledge of IBM PC and either French or Dutch would be an advantage. Age 24+ Salary: £9,500.
BOYCE BILINGUAL  
01-238 5501  
(MON-FRI 9.30-4.30) (EMP AGY)

He'll be in safe hands while I'm away. I'm getting him a temporary from...  
**Senior Secretaries**  
1 CITY 01-493 5787/WEST END 01-493 5787  
The first numbers to ring

Sarah Hadjio  
ITALIAN SPEAKING RECEPTIONIST  
W1

Top Bond St. design company seek Italian speaking Receptionist with typing, £7,500.

Contact Rachel Ward-Lilley 01-491 7638  
117 New Bond St, London, W1

THE CITY UNIVERSITY - Department of Music  
SECRETARY

We require a secretary to provide a secretarial service to a Professor and five additional staff in the above department. Duties will also include assisting with the applications/honours procedure, helping with maintenance and supervision of the Media Resources Room and providing general concert support. You should have sound secretarial skills, be familiar with or willing to learn a wordprocessing system and be given to the right applications and preferably have some musical background. Salary will be within the range £6,881 to £7,755 per annum inclusive (under 25).

For further details and an application form please write to: Ms Jane Cawson, Personnel Recruitment Assistant, The City University, Northampton Square, London EC1Y 8BB, or telephone 01-252 1107 (4 lines, no answer service). Closing date 16 December 1985.

ARTS  
French  
c.£7,500

A young Sec/PA with good secretarial skills (including fluent French and French shorthand) is needed to join an expert department of this leading auction house. A really outstanding college leaver would also be considered for this position. Speeds 90/60 + WP.

**CORBOLD AND DAVIS RECRUITMENT LTD.**  
35 Bruton Place W1. 01-493 7788

ACP  
PERSONNEL  
IN BANKING  
£7,200-£9,300 + Mortgage

Write your personal statement to: ACP Personnel Department, 100 Victoria Street, London EC6A 3DF. We are looking for a young, energetic, motivated person to join our team. You will be responsible for the personnel department of a leading company. You will be dealing with all personnel matters, including recruitment, training, discipline, and all other personnel matters.

STELLA FISHER  
11 STRAND WC2 01-836 8888ROOM AT RECEPTION  
£7,700

A leading W1 firm of PR consultants seeks a well spoken, stylish person to run their busy reception area. Lots of variety as you organise in house lunches and bookings for the boardroom. Previous experience of a Monarch published essential. Benefits include 5 weeks holiday.

City 01-240 3551  
West End 01-240 3531/3531  
**Elizabeth Hunt**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CAROLINE KING  
Advertising  
£9,000

Join the personal manager of a W1 agency in all administrative aspects of this very busy department. Help out with all your personal staff problems, liaise with employment agencies and up-date all CVs, letters, etc. Good shorthand and typing 90/60 needed to occasionally assist the chairman.

Phone Caroline King 01-498 8078  
CAROLINE KING  
RECRUITMENT APPOINTMENTS

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
(25-45 yrs)

To meet Senior Director of luxury goods, specialist sales, financial and a second language an advantage. A very interesting post combining good shorthand with typing with administrative skills. Ability to deal with people at all levels. Salary £8,500 p.a. 5/11, health and pension scheme, excellent staff restaurant. VERONICA LARA 027 6225

CENTKOM  
(Recruitment Consultants)



# SUPER SECRETARIES

01-837 0668

## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON

### Secretarial Vacancies

Senior Secretary, Department of Anatomy & Embryology to provide a full secretarial service including some administrative duties to busy group of scientists. Shortlisted and interview with Professor J. B. Huxley, Director. Knowledge of scientific and/or medical terminology advantageous. Civil and Municipal Engineering. Part-time Secretary, three days a week, for shorthand/typing. Experience of WP useful although training can be given.

Salary for both posts on scale £6,681-£7,756 inc. (pro rata for part-time). Applications, inc. full c.v. and names and addresses of 2 referees, to: Liz Kelly, Personnel Department, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.

**DEPUTY DIRECTORS SECRETARY**  
30-45 years required for large personal and professional experience. Chartered Secretary, a new position. Salary £10,000-£12,000. Full c.v. and references to: 01-837 0668.

**FAIR-SIGHTED MUSIC CHAIRMAN**  
Musician and administrator. Full-time position. Salary £10,000-£12,000. Full c.v. and references to: 01-837 0668.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**  
Fantastic opportunity for a young person with experience in public relations. Salary £10,000-£12,000. Full c.v. and references to: 01-837 0668.

**NO SHORTHAND, £7,000+**  
Part-time position. Salary £7,000-£8,000. Full c.v. and references to: 01-837 0668.

**DUTY TO SEA, £20,000**  
Part-time position. Salary £20,000-£25,000. Full c.v. and references to: 01-837 0668.

**MURPHY £20,000**  
Part-time position. Salary £20,000-£25,000. Full c.v. and references to: 01-837 0668.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS £7,800**  
Part-time position. Salary £7,800-£9,000. Full c.v. and references to: 01-837 0668.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY**  
Part-time position. Salary £10,000-£12,000. Full c.v. and references to: 01-837 0668.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY**  
Part-time position. Salary £10,000-£12,000. Full c.v. and references to: 01-837 0668.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY**  
Part-time position. Salary £10,000-£12,000. Full c.v. and references to: 01-837 0668.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY**  
Part-time position. Salary £10,000-£12,000. Full c.v. and references to: 01-837 0668.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY**  
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# UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

**UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**  
University Lectureships in Computation. Applications are invited for two university lectureships in Computation, from candidates with interests in (a) VLSI Design and (b) Foundations of Information Technology. Stipend according to age on the scale of £7,820-£16,365.

**UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA SCHOOL OF LAW**  
Postgraduate Research Studentships. Applications are invited for research studentships in the School of Law to pursue research leading to a Ph.D. The studentships will cover fees and carry a maintenance allowance corresponding to the current rate for D.E.S. and Research Council awards.

**UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE**  
CHAIR IN FINANCE. Applications are invited from qualified persons with expertise in finance for appointment to a Chair in the Department of Accounting and Finance within the Faculty of Economics and Commerce. The appointment will be for a period of five years in the first instance. It will be one of four Chairs in the Department. This is a senior chair which has been funded by the Victorian Government as part of the economic initiative scheme. The appointee will be expected to act as co-ordinator of the Department's research in finance which will involve substantial participation with the Graduate School of Management.

**UNIVERSITY OF BATH**  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION. Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer in Education with special interest in Educational Technology. The vacancy arises as a result of the appointment of Dr. N. D. G. Harris to the Chair of Educational Technology. Candidates should possess a postgraduate degree and/or higher degree, and have qualifications and experience in the field of educational technology. Salary range £7,500 - £14,000 (plus £1,000 for pension).

**UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM**  
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING. Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer in Civil Engineering with special interest in Structural Engineering. The vacancy arises as a result of the appointment of Dr. N. D. G. Harris to the Chair of Educational Technology. Candidates should possess a postgraduate degree and/or higher degree, and have qualifications and experience in the field of structural engineering. Salary range £7,500 - £14,000 (plus £1,000 for pension).

**UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**  
CHAIR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE. Applications are invited from qualified persons with expertise in finance for appointment to a Chair in the Department of Accounting and Finance within the Faculty of Economics and Commerce. The appointment will be for a period of five years in the first instance. It will be one of four Chairs in the Department. This is a senior chair which has been funded by the Victorian Government as part of the economic initiative scheme. The appointee will be expected to act as co-ordinator of the Department's research in finance which will involve substantial participation with the Graduate School of Management.

**KING'S COLLEGE LONDON (KQC)**  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY. Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer in History with special interest in Modern History. The vacancy arises as a result of the appointment of Dr. N. D. G. Harris to the Chair of Educational Technology. Candidates should possess a postgraduate degree and/or higher degree, and have qualifications and experience in the field of modern history. Salary range £7,500 - £14,000 (plus £1,000 for pension).

**UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM**  
LECTURER IN AGRONOMY. Applications are invited from qualified persons with expertise in agriculture for appointment to a Chair in the Department of Agriculture and Forestry within the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry. The appointment will be for a period of five years in the first instance. It will be one of four Chairs in the Department. This is a senior chair which has been funded by the Victorian Government as part of the economic initiative scheme. The appointee will be expected to act as co-ordinator of the Department's research in agriculture which will involve substantial participation with the Graduate School of Management.

**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**  
THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR. Applications are invited for a post of Registrar in the Office of the Registrar. The vacancy arises as a result of the appointment of Dr. N. D. G. Harris to the Chair of Educational Technology. Candidates should possess a postgraduate degree and/or higher degree, and have qualifications and experience in the field of registrarship. Salary range £7,500 - £14,000 (plus £1,000 for pension).

**CAD at Sheffield University**  
The University of Sheffield is introducing a major enhancement to its CAD facilities augmenting and developing an already high-level of interest, activity and investment. An opportunity exists for a suitably qualified and experienced person to fill the important new post of CAD Co-ordinator within the University's Computing Service. The CAD Co-ordinator will manage the University-wide CAD facilities and play an important role in their integration and future development. Extensive CAD experience will be required and applicants from industry will be particularly welcome. The appointment will be made on the scale for Other Related Grade III Staff (£14,700-£18,410 per annum). Applications (3 copies) including the names of three referees should be sent to the Personnel Department (Academic Staffing). The University, Sheffield, S10 2TN by 27th December 1985 from whom further particulars are available. Informal enquiries may be made of Dr D. McLain, Director of Computing Services (Tel. 0742 78555, ext. 4256).

**MONASH UNIVERSITY - Melbourne, Australia**  
CHAIR OF ECONOMICS. Applications are invited for a chair in the Department of Economics, Accounting and Finance. The appointment will be for a period of five years in the first instance. It will be one of four Chairs in the Department. This is a senior chair which has been funded by the Victorian Government as part of the economic initiative scheme. The appointee will be expected to act as co-ordinator of the Department's research in economics which will involve substantial participation with the Graduate School of Management.

**CHAIR OF ECONOMETRICS**  
Applications are invited for a Chair of Econometrics which has become vacant following the resignation of Professor D. A. Giles. The Chair is in the Department of Econometrics and Operations Research, the Chair of Economics, Monash University, Victoria, Australia. The appointee will be expected to act as co-ordinator of the Department's research in econometrics which will involve substantial participation with the Graduate School of Management.

**WORCESTER COLLEGE, OXFORD**  
CHAPLAIN AND FELLOW IN THEOLOGY. The College proposes to elect an ordained member of the Church of England to the post of Chaplain and Fellow in Theology, with effect from 1 October 1986. The post is to be held in conjunction with a University Lectureship (G.L.F.) in early Christianity (New Testament/Patristics). Application forms (to be returned by 18 December 1985) and further particulars are available from the College Secretary, Worcester College, Oxford, OX1 2BB.

**KING'S COLLEGE LONDON (KQC)**  
INSTITUTE OF ORTHODONTICS. Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer in Orthodontics with special interest in Orthodontic Technology. The vacancy arises as a result of the appointment of Dr. N. D. G. Harris to the Chair of Educational Technology. Candidates should possess a postgraduate degree and/or higher degree, and have qualifications and experience in the field of orthodontic technology. Salary range £7,500 - £14,000 (plus £1,000 for pension).

**UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK**  
PROFESSORSHIP OF SEMICONDUCTOR PHYSICS. Applications are invited for a post of Professor of Semiconductor Physics. The vacancy arises as a result of the appointment of Dr. N. D. G. Harris to the Chair of Educational Technology. Candidates should possess a postgraduate degree and/or higher degree, and have qualifications and experience in the field of semiconductor physics. Salary range £7,500 - £14,000 (plus £1,000 for pension).

**UNIVERSITY OF BATH**  
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS. Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer in Mathematics with special interest in Mathematical Physics. The vacancy arises as a result of the appointment of Dr. N. D. G. Harris to the Chair of Educational Technology. Candidates should possess a postgraduate degree and/or higher degree, and have qualifications and experience in the field of mathematical physics. Salary range £7,500 - £14,000 (plus £1,000 for pension).

**UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**  
RESEARCH OFFICER IN COMPUTER GRAPHICS. Applications are invited for a post of Research Officer in Computer Graphics. The vacancy arises as a result of the appointment of Dr. N. D. G. Harris to the Chair of Educational Technology. Candidates should possess a postgraduate degree and/or higher degree, and have qualifications and experience in the field of computer graphics. Salary range £7,500 - £14,000 (plus £1,000 for pension).

**UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM**  
COMPUTING GROUP. Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer in Computing with special interest in Computer Graphics. The vacancy arises as a result of the appointment of Dr. N. D. G. Harris to the Chair of Educational Technology. Candidates should possess a postgraduate degree and/or higher degree, and have qualifications and experience in the field of computer graphics. Salary range £7,500 - £14,000 (plus £1,000 for pension).

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## SALES AND MARKETING APPOINTMENTS

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**COLLEGE LEAVER**  
Part-time position. Salary £10,000-£12,000. Full c.v. and references to: 01-837 0668.

**GERMAN RECEPTIONIST/SEC**  
Part-time position. Salary £10,000-£12,000. Full c.v. and references to: 01-837 0668.

**COLLEGE LEAVER**  
Part-time position. Salary £10,000-£12,000. Full c.v. and references to: 01-837 0668.

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## PROMOTIONS/SALES







# Ministers may order ballot of Civil Servants if unions reject pay offer

By David Felton  
Labour Correspondent

Ministers are considering ordering a ballot of the 500,000 white collar Civil Servants to ascertain whether the union leaders who are set to reject the Treasury's proposals for a long-term pay system reflect the views of their members.

A decision on whether to hold the ballot is some way off but the move is a reflection of the Government's determination to establish a settled pay system for the Civil Service so as to act as a brake on pay unrest by Whitehall staff.

The Treasury told the unions yesterday that it had sanctioned a pay information survey by the Office of Manpower Economics, in preparation for next spring's wage negotiations, but gave a warning that the results of the survey will not be made available to the unions unless they accept the long-term system.

On present evidence the unions seem set on rejecting the system, which includes an element of comparability with salaries paid outside the Civil Service and restricted access to arbitration, although the key decisions will be taken at special conferences during the next two months.

However, the Government is understood to favour a two-pronged strategy to prevent a return to the pattern in the previous years of fragmented bargaining, involving a ballot of all staff or deals with individual unions with the negotiations based on elements of the Treasury's pay proposals.

A union decision on accept-

## Benefit offices close for day

At least 51 Department of Health and Social Security benefit offices in London and the South-east were closed yesterday because of a one-day strike called by Civil Service unions in protest against shortages in the offices.

The unions said last night that of the 86 local offices in south London and an area stretching from Kent to Hampshire, 70 were closed to the public.

Between 4,500 and 5,000 Civil Servants were said to be on strike but the department said that only 51 offices were closed and the remainder open to the public. The department said it was prepared to discuss the claim for extra staff.

The action has been taken as part of a campaign by the unions to persuade the Government to increase staffing at the local offices by 15,000.

A similar one-day strike is planned for next month in north London and the northern Home Counties and there have also been suggestions of walkouts in Scottish benefit offices.

ance of the proposed system rests with the Council of Civil Service Unions, umbrella body for the eight unions, and a two-thirds majority of the 63 possible votes available would be required to win approval.

The Government will consider going over the heads of the council if there is an overall majority which fails to reach the

necessary two-thirds. Senior government officials also point out that 20 per cent of the 500,000 white collar staff do not belong to any union.

Each union is adopting a different method for consulting its members but the outcome will rest with the largest union, the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA), whose right-wing leadership voted by 14 to 11 to urge its members to back the proposals.

The CPSA is about to launch a campaign among its 140,000 membership ending with a special conference in January when a final decision will be taken. The conference is usually dominated by left wingers and a split in the right-wing indicates that Mr Alistair Graham, the moderate general secretary, will have difficulty persuading the conference to accept the Treasury plan.

The only other union whose executive has accepted the Treasury proposal is the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, but the Government is hoping that other unions, at the moment hostile, will have a change of heart.

A decision by the CPSA to accept the deal would probably be sufficient to trigger a Treasury decision to ballot the whole Civil Service.

The unions are urgently collecting data to support a joint pay claim, in preparation for rejection of the system, so as to avoid a repeat of this year's negotiations with each union submitting individual claims and holding separate negotiations.



Central figures at Liverpool City Council's finance committee meeting yesterday (from left): Mr Tony Byrne, finance chairman, Mr Derek Hatton, deputy leader, and Mr Tony Mulhearn, president of the Liverpool Labour Party.

## Liverpool budget wins support

By Robin Young

Liverpool City Council's finance committee yesterday approved the compromise budget plans to avert bankruptcy accepted by the city's Labour party. The package now goes to the full council for ratification on Friday.

The key to the proposals is the capitalization of £23.4 million in housing repair and maintenance money. It will be used to pay for jobs and services until the end of the year, and will be made up with a loan from a consortium of Swiss banks.

The loan has been agreed with the bankers subject to three conditions: that the council undertakes to act lawfully in future, recognises its income and expenditure in line with the terms of reference of the Stonefort report, and obtains Department of the Environment approval.

The package also includes taking up the offer of £3 million in unused loan sanctions from other Labour-controlled local authorities, and cuts of £3 million in Liverpool's expenditure.

Mr Tony Byrne, Liverpool's left-wing finance chairman, called on the Department of the Environment to immediately

indicate its support for the agreement, and brushed aside Conservative group demands that he should resign.

Mr Chris Hallows, the Conservative group leader on the council, claimed that Mr Byrne had made it "a point of principle" that he would never accept capitalization, which the Tories had been demanding for months.

Mr Hallows said: "By your actions over the last few months you have drained the resources of this city and the confidence and will of the people. The morale within the corporation workforce has sunk to an absolutely all-time low". He said attracting investment to Liverpool had become impossible.

Mr Byrne replied that the proposed scheme meant the city's capital programmes would not be affected. "If there is a risk to the capital programme as a result of this, I won't need you to call on me to resign, because we will all be gone," he said.

Mr Derek Hatton, the deputy Labour leader, described the compromise as "nothing but a setback", involving no rent or rate increases and no cuts in the housing programme. The set-

back was "entirely due to the Tory Government, the Liberal administration before us and above all the treachery of the Labour national leadership and some trade union members".

Councillor Tony Mulhearn, the Liverpool Labour president, warned that the city would find itself in the same position next year unless a massive campaign could ensure that extra Government resources were brought to Liverpool.

Sir Trevor Jones, the Liberal leader, claimed the budget would mean cuts of £9.75 million over a full year, the £3 million only covering the period until April.

Mr Michael Reddington, the city treasurer, told the committee that the council still had to pay off between £40 million and £50 million in debt repayments from existing loans by the end of this financial year.

● Mr John Forrester, the moderate Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent North for 19 years, who lost a re-election contest to Mrs Joan Walley, a member of the rebel Lambeth Council in London, said yesterday that Militant Tendency was jeopardising Labour's chances at the next election.

## TUC and Labour to push for pay accord

By Our Labour Editor

The TUC and Labour Party are to begin discussions on pay in earnest in the hope of drawing up a joint document for distribution to union conferences next spring.

The plans to hasten the process of outlining an accord covering "fair wages, including a national minimum wage" were agreed at a meeting of the TUC Labour Liaison Committee yesterday, attended by Mr Neil Kinnock, the party leader, and Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Chancellor.

Although the terse phraseology in a document presented yesterday to the committee makes no mention of the delicate topic of incomes policy, moderates on the TUC general council are likely to see the

move as a step in the direction of a more general agreement on pay.

The process has been given a boost by the Labour Party conference's commitment to a statutory minimum wage.

A study by the Policy Studies Institute gives a warning that continued high unemployment could mean a sharp change in "the present essentially positive trade-union attitudes" to new technology.

In a survey of factories using new technology, only 7 per cent reported opposition from the shop floor, or from other unions, to be "a major obstacle". Chips and Jobs (PST, 100 Park Village, East London, NW1 3SR, £8.95).

## Success for anti-cancer experiment

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

An experimental vaccine has succeeded in protecting monkeys against a virus that is known to cause two types of malignant tumours in people. The achievement comes after 10 years of research by a team at Bristol University medical school working with Professor Tony Epstein.

A systematic search for a vaccine was mounted after the original isolation of the virus, named Epstein-Barr virus for the professor in the department of pathology at Bristol, who discovered it. The virus, one of the five human herpes viruses, was found in cultures of cells obtained from two types of tumours: one known as Burkitt's lymphoma and the other a type of cancer of the nose.

Burkitt's lymphoma is a painful swelling of the lymph glands and neck glands, from which thousands of children in Africa, China and South-east Asia die annually. The type of nose cancer involved is also most common in South-east Asia.

This first demonstration of a vaccine that can prevent a cancer is reported by the scientists in a paper in the latest issue of *Nature*.

## Unionist pressure on Powell to resign

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Pressure is mounting on Mr Enoch Powell to give a written undertaking before the start of today's House of Commons debate on the Anglo-Irish agreement that he will resign his Westminster seat and join 14 colleagues in fighting by-elections next year.

The leadership of the Official Unionist Party hopes that their MP for Down South will quickly end damaging speculation about his future political intentions; yesterday, however, they were in the embarrassing position of being unable to say whether he would support them.

Mr Powell's failure to appear with 14 other Unionist MPs at a "loyalist" rally in Belfast at the weekend and to sign a declaration promising that he would resign has angered and irritated many in the party who consider his absence to have undermined what was intended as a display of Unionist unity.

His position, and the suspicion that he is less than wholehearted about the strategy of resigning seats at Westminster to fight by-elections early next year, has tended to overshadow the impact of the rally, and in private there is undisguised hostility towards him. One Unionist politician said: "The attention is focusing on him and his position to the detriment of our cause. His behaviour has been appalling."

Yesterday Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionist Party, was unable to give a clear answer when asked three times if he was confident he could rely on the support of Mr Powell, an Official Unionist MP for 11 years. Mr Molyneux

refused to pre-judge what Mr Powell might say when invited to resign his seat, but added: "When a party leader issues an invitation to resign, it would be accepted. I would have been disappointed if any of my other colleagues had refused to resign their seat."

Mr Molyneux said he hoped to see Mr Powell, who has a majority of only 548, before the start of this afternoon's debate so he could clarify his colleague's position and ask him to sign the declaration.

As Mr Molyneux became increasingly irritated at the questioning in Belfast, it was left to his deputy, Mr Harold McCusker, Official Unionist MP for Upper Bann, to increase the pressure on his parliamentary colleagues by saying: "In 11 years Mr Powell has been one of the most loyal members of the Parliamentary party. I don't think he has deviated from the decisions of that Parliamentary party in the 11 years."

"I take his word as his bond when he said last week that that was one of the fundamental principles guiding his membership of our parliamentary party, and that he would take seriously the invitation extended to him and maintain the solidarity he has shown during his term at Westminster."

When asked what might be in Mr Powell's mind, Mr McCusker replied: "Enoch Powell's mind is one of those few minds that one has not had an opportunity to reach."

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## Better control of hospital projects

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities' control over big hospital building projects has improved markedly in the past five years, according to the National Health Service annual report published yesterday.

A sample of 36 building projects, each costing more than £5 million and completed by 1984, shows that the average cost over-run is down to about 1.7 per cent, or £100,000, and on average they were completed six weeks late.

A similar sample of pre-1980 schemes showed the average cost over-run in today's prices was closer to £700,000, or 11.6 per cent, while on average the schemes were completed more than 10 months late.

The *Health Service in England: Annual report 1985* (Stationery Office, £6.20).

## Thames Water sets 3% rise

Thames Water, largest of the 10 authorities that supply most of the drinking water in England and Wales, decided yesterday to raise charges by 3 per cent next year.

That is the increase that Thames wanted this year until the Government forced it to push charges up by 10 per cent in order to meet financial targets.

## MPs to question ending TB jabs

Health ministers are to be questioned by MPs on proposals to halt the routine vaccination of school children against tuberculosis by 1990.

● The number of children infected in a Devon outbreak last year, referred to in *The Times* yesterday, should have read 33, not 332.

# How long before the milkround turns sour?

There's one thing a spell at University always guarantees. Plenty of 'milkround' visits from company executives.

Each and every one of them has well-paid jobs to offer.

But before signing on the dotted line, think very carefully.

Will the promises turn out to be empty? Will the job suit your particular abilities and skills?

These are not the sort of questions you can answer in 3 minutes. So why not take 3 years to decide your future - as an Army Officer?

On completion of your training at Sandhurst you will be commissioned as a Lieutenant earning £9,679.

Naturally you will learn how to command and care for a group of bright young soldiers and to handle our sophisticated weapons and equipment.

And if you are posted abroad at short

notice to lead soldiers in unfamiliar surroundings you'd have to cope.

No wonder many leading industrialists regard an Army Commission as the best management training a young man or woman can have.

Whether you make the Army your long-term career or leave earlier is up to you.

Either way it promises not to sour your future. Quite the opposite in fact. And you'll gain unrivalled executive training at our expense.

So if you need a little more time to decide, see your Careers Staff and pick up an Introduction Form.

Through this we will arrange for a Liaison Officer to see you at your University, Polytechnic, or College of Higher Education.

**Army Officer**

## SDP proposes £1,410m scheme to train young

A plan to end full-time employment for 16 and 17 year olds was proposed yesterday by the Social Democratic Party.

The proposals, which could cost up to £1,410 million in 1988, would not only give a new deal to those aged between 16 and 19 but would also make some extra jobs available for the older unemployed. Cutting the working week for 16 and 17 year olds by two days would mean more work for older people looking for jobs, the SDP says.

The proposals are contained in a new SDP discussion Green

Paper, *Tertiary Education For All*, which sets out the party's strategy for the education and training of 16 to 19 year olds. It draws attention to the falling level of skill training and proposes an immediate £200 million cash programme to reverse the decline.

The SDP's long term programme includes: a new legal obligation on employers to release 16 to 17 year olds for two days a week; government support for shared "starter jobs" and a "young student grant" paid direct to full-time 16-19 students.

## Chauffeur's abortion claim 'a lie'

The claim by Anthony Howard, former chauffeur of the millionaire, Mrs Soraya Khashoggi, that she had an abortion after becoming pregnant by him was untrue, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr John Aspinall, for the prosecution, was making his final speech in the trial of Mr Howard, aged 39, who is accused of stealing more than 400 items worth £100,000 from Mrs Khashoggi.

Mr Howard claims he had an affair with Mrs Khashoggi and that she gave him the property, as a gift, for safekeeping or for repair.

Referring to Mr Howard's suggestion that the three-times married Mrs Khashoggi, aged 44, had an abortion, Mr Aspinall said she had not been given the chance to deal with the claim during her evidence.

"Do you think anybody, if what he is describing had occurred, would have pursued a lying allegation of theft, knowing he would have that sort of information to throw at her?"

Mr Aspinall told the jury to reject any suggestion that Mrs Khashoggi had any reason, through love or affection, to have given Mr Howard the property.

Both Mr Aspinall and Mr Michael Beckman, QC, for the defence, told the jury that someone in the case was telling a pack of lies.

The hearing continues today.

## Clash on number of pits hitting targets

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Editor

The National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers clashed yesterday over the interpretation of new figures showing that only 21 out of more than 120 pits met the board's latest operating targets for the first six months of the financial year.

The union published in *The Miner* a fresh list of the production costs per tonne for every colliery which was taken from NCB figures regularly distributed to the unions. The list shows that 121 collieries in that period produced coal at more than £38 per tonne, the target threshold the NCB has told the unions it wants to establish that a pit is viable.

The figures paint a bleak picture of the struggle many pits will have to bring costs down, particularly as the majority have costs per tonne of more than £42 per tonne, the medium-term costs ceiling envisaged by the NCB.

But the NCB emphatically denied last night the claim by the NUM that the figures mean that the overwhelming majority of the 120 pits were "under immediate threat according to the NCB's criteria".

The board said the figures were affected by recovery from the strike and the overtime ban which preceded it; by the first half year colliery annual holidays; by slowdowns in production caused by development work and new investment. It maintained that a "financial snapshot" of the pits did not reflect "real operating circumstances".

It pointed out that Selby, which is just beginning to benefit from more than £1 billion in investment, was listed by the NUM as among those vulnerable to closure.

The argument came as pressure continued in Leicestershire for an area ballot on whether to join the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, after calls from three of the area's four pits for a ballot. But an area council, which had been expected to discuss the issue yesterday, did not take place.

Mr Terry Hughes, the area's president, said he would be proposing a ballot when Mr Jack Jones, the Leicestershire area secretary, called the council meeting.

● Miners in Stoke-on-Trent yesterday set up Staffordshire's first branch of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. And the miners, employed at the Trencham workshop, believe dozens of pits at Stoke-on-Trent's Hens Colliery are poised to form the second north Staffordshire branch.



Geoffrey Smith

It ought in theory to be one of the great parliamentary occasions when the House of Commons debates the Northern Ireland agreement today and tomorrow. Here is the opportunity for MPs to the Government on an ingenious but controversial initiative which is intended to provide a peaceful solution to the United Kingdom's greatest internal crisis for more than half a century.

Yet it will in practice be a debate whose outcome is certain and will settle nothing. The Government will win an overwhelming majority in the vote and may not even be pressed hard in debate.

The main assault will come from the Ulster Unionists, who command neither the ear nor the sympathy of the House. They will have even fewer friends if the tone is set for them by the Rev Ian Paisley's ranting. Apart from them, there will be a dozen or so Conservative dissidents, who fear that Mrs Thatcher is selling out the Protestants, and possibly a few Labour members who do not believe that she is going far enough to please the Roman Catholics.

The threat to this agreement does not, however, lie in Westminster. The farther one gets away from Northern Ireland itself the better it looks.

## Statesmanlike act welcomed

I was in Los Angeles when it was announced and there can be no doubt that throughout the United States it was welcomed as an act of statesmanship. With London and Dublin marching in step, Northern Ireland now presents less of an international embarrassment for Britain than at any time since the collapse of power-sharing in 1974.

Nor does the threat lie in the Irish Republic at this stage. The reaction there has been so favourable that the leader of the opposition, Mr Charles Haughey, has modified his criticism.

It is on the ground in Northern Ireland that this is a high risk operation. It depends for its success on being interpreted in different ways by the two communities, with the Catholics accepting the maximalist and the Protestants the minimalist interpretation.

The Catholics need to believe that the joint conference of British and Irish ministers with its secretariat will be more than a purely consultative arrangement and that it may start a process that could lead to the reunification of Ireland.

The Protestants need to be persuaded that this will be no more than a consultative arrangement, and that the agreement marks a new readiness on the part of the republic to accept the enduring reality of partition.

The risk is that the two communities may draw precisely the reverse conclusions. The Catholics may have been reassured by the commitment of the Dublin government, the enthusiasm of the SDLP and the outrage of the Protestants. It is this sense of outrage which presents the immediate challenge.

Mrs Thatcher must have allowed for this, and her determination in facing down opposition is beyond question. But in the long run Northern Ireland cannot be stable without at least the acquiescence of the majority community.

## Double dilemma for Government

There is a double dilemma here. For the British Government to accept the joint declaration of the Ulster Unionists is to express their opposition so forcibly as to make the Government change course without at the same time destroying their own position.

They plan to have their MPs resign their seats at the beginning of January so as to force a series of by-elections. But even if they were all then to enjoy a triumph that would not be enough to shake Mrs Thatcher's resolve.

The Unionists might resolve their dilemma by coming to terms with the SDLP on a new executive and assembly for Northern Ireland. That would mean the joint ministerial conference superfluous. But they do not seem to be thinking along these lines.

Perhaps the withdrawal of Protestant consent - with the threat of rent, rates and possibly a tax strike - could make Northern Ireland ungovernable. In the background there lurks the shadow of another workers' strike and even violence. But the very measures that might force Mrs Thatcher's hand would, precisely those which would disgust British opinion with the Northern Irish connection altogether.

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